

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2009

The Whole Truth



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

URBAN INITIATIVES

Building Healthy Individuals, Families and Communities for a Successful Future

WHAT THE SAINTS ARE SAYING ABOUT PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

For some the historical milestone is personal; for others it's spiritual, political or social

C.H. MASON SEMINARY

A Legacy of Education Continues...

THE INAUGURAL GALA AFFAIR

rites for Bishop W.L. Porter



The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members.

The Whole Truth shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

The Whole Truth is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

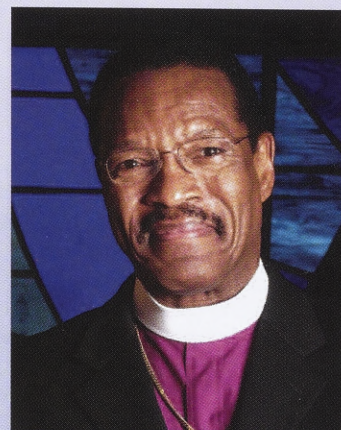
If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth's* editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth's* archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.

BISHOP CHARLES BLAKE TAPPED TO SERVE ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S NEW COUNCIL

COGIC Leader Appointed to Sit on Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships



(April 7, 2009 - Memphis, TN) Church Of God In Christ Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake has accepted a seat on President Barack Obama's new Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Blake will serve with 25 other national religious and secular figureheads on a one-year term appointment. The office, which was created by President George W. Bush, is meant primarily to support faith-based groups by helping them obtain government funding or access to legal guidance about church-state boundaries. Under President Obama, it has laid out several priorities including interfaith relations, abortion reduction and improving the environment.

"I am extremely honored to serve on this distinguished council to further the agenda of our Nation and God through assisting our civic and church organizations who are working at a grassroots level to improve the quality of life for others. This gives us an excellent opportunity to assist in many areas that plague our communities with proactive strategies that will save lives," said Blake.

Blake is a pro-life Democrat who spoke at the first ever interfaith gathering at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver. In his speech, "Our Sacred Responsibility to Our Youth", Blake reinforced the commitment this country should have to not only our living children, but the unborn child as well. Blake is also the founder of Save Africa's Children and the Chairman of COGIC Charities, Inc. Board of Directors.

"Over the past few days and weeks, there has been much talk about what our government's role should be during this period of economic emergency. That is as it should be - because there is much that government can and must do to help people in need," said President Obama. "But no matter how much money we invest or how sensibly we design our policies, the change that Americans are looking for will not come from government alone. There is a force for good greater than government. It is an expression of faith, this yearning to give back, this hungering for a purpose larger than our own, that reveals itself not simply in places of worship, but in senior centers and shelters, schools and hospitals, and any place an American decides."

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

FINDING FREEDOM IN THE PROMISED LAND

G. E. PATTERSON

You Call Yourself A Christian.

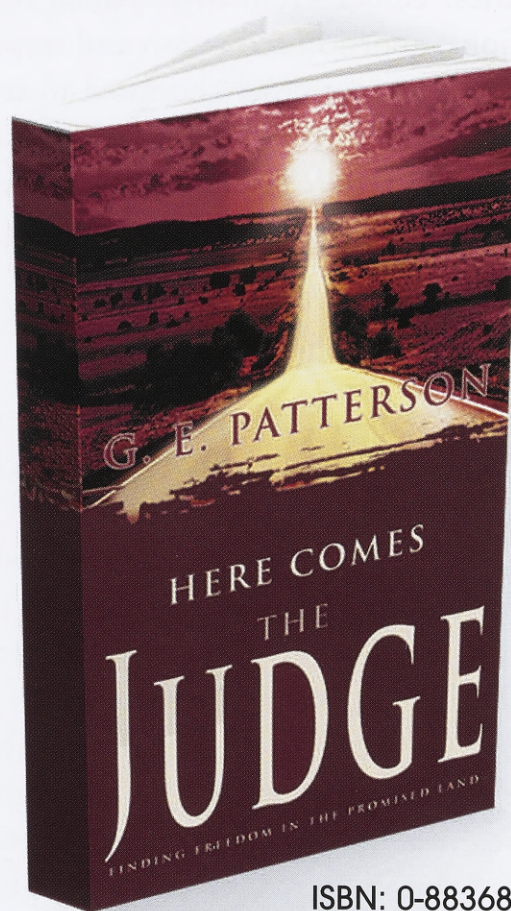
You say that you have surrendered your entire life to God, and you're living in the Promised Land of your salvation.

But it seems that the feeling of fulfillment was temporary-replaced by emptiness. Sickness has crept in where health should be. What about your finances? You thought you would be rich, not just living from day to day. Depression has become a way of life. The feeling of freedom and power has been replaced by bondage and fear.

But God loves His people, and He loves you too much to let you shrivel up in a dungeon of depression or helplessness. In the days of the Old Testament, God sent men and women with the authority to deliver His people from oppression, even when they didn't deserve His mercy. These deliverers were called "judges," because they brought His justice and mercy into balance in the lives of His people. Today, you have the greatest Judge of all-Jesus Christ.

G. E. Patterson challenges you to let Christ break the shackles of low self-esteem, poverty, and spiritual dryness off your life. Open your heart to His righteous judgments, and you will find His offer of forgiveness, grace, and new freedom! With Jesus the Deliverer on your side,

you are the only person who can prevent your freedom.



ISBN: 0-88368-775-5
Retail: \$12.99

Available at the COGIC Bookstore
285 South Main Street Memphis, TN 38103
901-525-4004 phone • 901-525-4001 fax

The Whole Truth

contents

- 6 The Inaugural Affair
- 10 Urban Initiatives
- 14 Rites for Bishop W.L. Porter
- 16 Election Correction
- 18 Alabama 1st Jurisdiction Introduces VBS
- 20 YPWW Core Group Meet
- 23 Elder L.V. Plummer Receives John Hancock's Top Award
- 24 C.H. Mason Seminary
- 28 COGIC Around the Globe
- 32 D. J. Young Publishing Co.
- 36 Church Leadership Compensation and Transactions Involving Church Property
- 38 Rites for A Servant of God, Mother Ida Belle Bracy
- 39 What the Saints are Saying About President Obama
- 40 Elder Claude Lang Dies, 107 Year Journey Ends
- 42 Meet the Newly Appointed COGIC Publishing Board



The Whole Truth magazine (USPS No. 780340) is published quarterly for the annual subscription rate of \$20. Payable in advance in U.S. currency only. Published by the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., 2500 Lamar Avenue Memphis, TN 38114. Periodical Postage rate paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Whole Truth* Magazine, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, TN 38101. For additional information or to subscribe, call 901.744.0477 or write: *The Whole Truth* Magazine, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, TN 38101.



Publisher

Bishop C.E. Blake, Sr.

Presiding Bishop, COGIC

CEO: Publishing House

Dr. David A. Hall, Sr.

Production Advisor

Randolph Bolden

Design/Layout/Art Direction

Frederick Virgous

Features Editors

Department Editors/Writers

Dr. James B. Boyer

Evangelist Glenda Williams-Goodson

Joyce Walker-Tyson

Photography

David Hall, Sr.

Keith Little

Publishing Board Commission

Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush

Chairman

Bishop Samuel L. Green

General Board

Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

Presiding Bishop

Bishop P.A. Brooks

1st Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop Jerry W. Macklin

2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop W.W. Hamilton

Secretary

Bishop R.L.H. Winbush

Assistant Secretary

Bishop C.D. Owens

Bishop J.N. Haynes

Bishop S.L. Green

Bishop G. McKinney

Bishop N. Wells

Bishop S. Daniels

Bishop F.O. White

Bishop J. Lyles

General Secretary

Judge Enoch Perry

Chief Counsel



Dr. David Allen Hall, Sr.

Our Reason to Be



The problem of evil in the world is one that philosophers, theologians, and everyday persons have attempted to understand. Some would question – If God is all-powerful, why does evil exist? Some further say if the church was effective, evil could be eradicated and all of us would know the peace and joy of the Lord. I'm writing this editorial to encourage the reader to understand that evil has no dominion over God, and exists under the control of God. Why?

God created us and in the act of creating, He established certain principles in the fullness of His creation, all possibilities and qualities may be found. We tend to categorize those events, items, and persons with whom we disagree or have challenges, as evil. In every case, that's not correct. Before we move to the obvious, which is how evil affects humankind, let's consider nature. Within the Creation of God, there is a measure of pain, sickness, destruction, and death. At different times in life, and how these measures impact us, we consider them to be evil. You see a little child with cancer and you know that the fullness of that child's life may be threatened. Cancer is an evil thing when it cuts a life short, particularly a child's. If one is not careful, one would think that God could do nothing to prevent or control the fate of that child with cancer. And, in despair, you might conclude evil won the battle.

I want to look at it another way. Without pain, disease, destruction, and even death, we would fall short of understanding the goodness and glory of God. Nothing lasts forever – not our joy, not our peace, nor these bodies we live in; and some of us have less time in them than others. It's my opinion that all the aforementioned problems are a part of the creative plan of God to renew and sustain life beyond our personal selves. The discomfort and the threat that comes from sickness, destruction and death make us all better people, because we have to work to overcome them.

Let's consider evil in human beings. The world is filled with pain, anxiety, cruelty, and death, which seems to be so unreasonable. At the church I serve, Temple Church Of God In Christ, we recently conducted a series of worship services under the theme, "Healing from Violence." It was our attempt to say to the broader community, and to the church, that God is in control. We wanted to reassure those who have deep-seated hurt, and who knows the true pain of suffering, that they still have hope. People came to that worship service having suffered the death of children by gunshot, women had been raped, and suffered physical abuse etc., but there was a healing that came about as a result of our examination of the subject. What became clear was that in the providence of God, we are made able to sustain no matter what we encounter.

Yes, our reason for being is to praise God and to glorify Him in the face of evil and depravity and on unbelievable scales. Our reason for being is to reassure creation that God is with us, before and after everything that occurs. God is actively and aggressively pursuing our good against the backdrop of every event we encounter.

Finally, some things are just meant to be; and sadly, they bring us to an end. But, if we have a legacy that is in Christ, our ending or affirmation will be the beginning for someone else. Now, that's our reason for being in the church.

David A. Hall, Sr.

Did You Renew Your Annual Subscription?

Last December the staff at the Publishing House mailed a renewal notice to your house. Hundreds of you took the opportunity to use the return envelope and send the payment back. Many hundreds of you failed to return the envelope.



The Whole Truth Magazine is constantly upgrading and attempting to provide timely and important news of the Church Of God In Christ. Every saint, especially credential holders, should receive the magazine. It only costs \$20.00.



It is not too late!

The Inaugural Gala Affair,



Bishop and
Mrs. J.H. Sheard



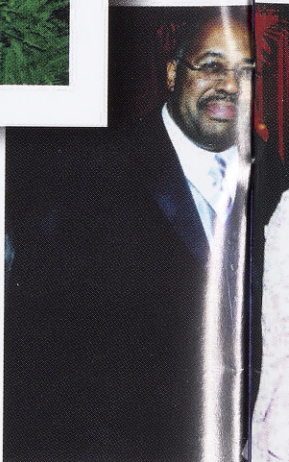
Bishop and Mrs. P.A. Brooks



Bishop and Mrs. R.L.H. Winbush



Bishop and Mrs. J.H. Lyles



ir, The Bishops and Their Wives

d
Sheard



Bishop and Mrs. G.D. McKinney



Presiding Bishop and
Mrs. C.E. Blake



Bishop and Mrs. J.O.
Patterson, Jr.



Bishop and Mrs. S.L. Green



Bishop and Mrs. J.W. Macklin



Bishop and Mrs. F.O. White



National officers receive communion



Bishop Blake steps forward in praise

April 13, 2009, Memphis, TN- The April Call Meeting is usually a time for considering budgets and business. The fiscal calendar of the Church Of God In Christ is traditionally set and the organization conducts operations and ministry for another season. During the 2009 April Call Meeting the General Assembly received the report from the General Board. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., made it clear that discussions with the City Fathers about the business relationship between the city and the Church were exhaustive, but nothing had changed. Accommodations and charges for facilities are much better in cities other than Memphis. The saints are reported to bring fifty million dollars or more to the Memphis economy during the month of November. These are financial figures provided by the city. There is an emotional and historic connection between Memphis and the Church Of God In Christ, but business and benefit have not come together in order for the saints to continue the November convention beyond 2009. The Presiding Bishop made the report and asked Executive

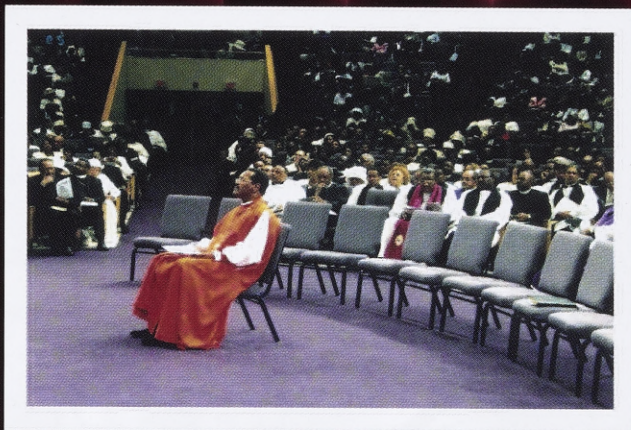
Administrator, Superintendent Dickerson Wells to, present the Church's argument.

After the report the General Assembly entertained one of the most important and historic votes in the history of the Church. The thorough report prompted the Assembly to receive a motion to move the Holy Convocation from Memphis, Tennessee. The house voted to approve the move and this sent ripples throughout the community of Memphis, if not around the country. The City Fathers demonstrated some ambivalence about the vote. There were some negative reactions from the community leaders but the greatest appeal was for the Church and the city to work things out. However, after 102 consecutive years of Holy Convocations in Memphis, the Church Of God In Christ will conduct its November 2010 convention in St Louis, Missouri.

The saints and the City Fathers are aware that the decision was neither abrupt or thoughtlessly made. Memphis is the Jerusalem for



First Ladies Mrs. Mae Blake and Mrs. Louise Patterson



Moments of deep thought



The new Presiding Bishop addressing the Saints



General Secretary Lyles reads appointments

the saints. Leaving the City of Memphis is not easily done. The need for larger meeting facilities, better hotel accommodations, and other financial benefits made the change mandatory. It is the hope of the Church Of God In Christ's leadership that future negotiations will bring better results.

April 12, 2009, offered a splendid event for the ages. The Most Reverend Charles Edward Blake, Sr., and the general officers of the Church Of God In Christ were inaugurated and consecrated for service. The ceremony conducted in the beautiful Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ was performed before a packed house. The event was simultaneously shown over the internet around the world. The inauguration was conducted with the usual sacred quality. Superintendent Otis Lockett of North Carolina preached a fabulous message that was appropriate to his charge. The Blake administration was officially released to guide the organization through what appears to be turbulent times.

The Church Of God In Christ has a social character that should be appreciated. On the night following the decision to leave Memphis, the saints gathered for a truly splendid gala event, the

Inaugural Banquet. Lady Mae Blake displayed her classy and keen sense of decor at the Cook Convention Center. Our First Lady transformed the convention hall into a palace. Her skills as an imaginative and exquisite interior decorator and event coordinator were acknowledged by all in attendance. If Presiding Bishop Blake is a world class administrator, his wife's skills as a decorator are likewise. The Church has had great social events before; however, the Inaugural 2009 Banquet for Bishop Blake is at the pinnacle of social events.

The program was balanced and uniquely presented. The gala had Bishops, Supervisors, Pastors, movie stars, and other saints in attendance. For those who paid for a ticket, the dinner committee had a hard covered souvenir program booklet. The food was excellent and the graciousness of our host, the Blake's was unequalled.

After the gala, the honored couple conducted a receiving line and personally greeted all the guests. ☺

Urban Initiatives



Building healthy individuals, families and communities for a successful future

Edwin C. Bass, President

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. has announced the formation of Urban Initiatives, Inc. Under the leadership of Pastor Edwin C. Bass, the newly appointed President, Urban Initiatives, Inc. is expected to achieve lasting change in America's cities by working with COGIC'S vast network of local churches and outreach ministries.

The Vision of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.


Our Presiding Bishop has a well-deserved reputation for successfully addressing complex problems. Save Africa's Children is just one example of the strategies he has devised. Observing the desperate plight of children on the continent of Africa, Bishop Blake prayerfully created and effectively implemented a strategic plan which has brought hope and an optimistic future to thousands of children—impacting current and future generations. He has consistently matched his eloquent words with practical strategies and measurable results.



Pastor E.C. Bass

Here at home in our cities, Bishop Blake is deeply concerned about the urban dilemma. A pervasive, destructive urban culture keeps residents mired in despair and hopelessness. Some of its detrimental effects are poor academic achievement, financial disenfranchisement, high unemployment, soaring crime levels, the desperate state of the black man, the breakdown of the family and financial illiteracy.

Currently many local churches and ministries are working alone to address one or more of these complex, interrelated problems. Several creative approaches have been put in place with varying degrees of success. But Bishop Blake asks, *"How much more could we do if we harnessed our collective power and focused it on a common goal; improving the quality of life in the communities we serve?"*



By working together as one Church, making existing good ideas readily available to all, devising new strategies where needed and sharing resources, we increase our leverage. As a result, we can certainly do *more* and we can do it *faster*. Throughout the nation, our jurisdictions, districts, local churches and ministries are uniquely positioned to serve as a distinctive network for collaboration and implementation. Together, we can decrease the amount of time and money needed to initiate effective programs and achieve greater results by systematically sharing best practices. All of which will increase access to funding.

Urban Initiatives, the vision and creation of our Presiding Bishop, will develop and implement solutions to the contemporary urban dilemma with expert assistance from throughout our Church. Utilizing COGIC's network of local churches and outreach ministries, Urban Initiatives will bring about real and lasting change in American communities by focusing on five core areas:

- Education (Access, Excellence and Equity)
- Economic Development (Job Training and Job Creation)
- Crime (Reduction, Prevention and Rehabilitation)
- Family (Developing Healthy Men, Women and Children)
- Financial Literacy (Economic Empowerment)

Of critical importance, Urban Initiatives will provide our churches and ministries with the necessary encouragement, inspiration, rationale, information, consultation and resources to achieve real and measurable change. Over time, we will witness revitalized cities populated by a hopeful, energized and productive citizenry.

Pastor Edwin C. Bass will serve as President of Urban Initiatives, Inc.

"I am pleased to announce that Pastor Edwin C. Bass has accepted the responsibility for leading Urban Initiatives. He has outstanding credentials, extensive business experience and a strategic perspective. Most importantly, he is spiritually centered and passionate about the future of the Church Of God In Christ."

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

A native of western Pennsylvania, Pastor Edwin Bass is the 8th of ten children born to the late Bishop Joseph E. Bass, Sr. and Missionary Mary V. Bass. Along with Pastor Bass, his wife, maternal grandfather, father, mother, four brothers, one sister and two nephews comprise a historical ministerial lineage with over 300 years of combined service to the Church Of God In Christ.

Pastor Bass is an alumnus of Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. Also, as a foreign exchange student, he attended Panjab University in Chandigarh, India. Additionally, he pursued graduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In the secular world, he served as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Blue Cross Blue Shield.

As the visionary founder and pastor of The Empowered Church COGIC in St. Louis, Pastor Bass works closely with his Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop R. J. Ward of the Eastern Missouri First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. The Empowered Church is a beacon of hope within the Spanish Lake community of St. Louis, where this progressive ministry continues to grow and flourish.

With an enduring commitment to establishing community, Pastor Bass has served tirelessly on the boards of the United Way of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis Transitional Hope House, Lindenwood University, Grace Hill Economic Development Corporation, the Urban League of St. Louis and the Colgate University Alumni Corporation.

Among numerous honors and awards, Pastor Bass was featured in *Speaking of People* in Ebony Magazine. He is nationally known for coining the phrase, "I Won't Be Silent Anymore!" and for authoring a book by that name.

However, the greatest asset to his professional and personal life is his beloved wife of 37 years, Missionary Jessie Miller Bass. As young children, they had the prophetic experience of being saved in the same revival service. They are the blessed parents of Sean, Craig, and Courtney and proud grandparents of Kyng Cleveland. Seven years ago they lost their eldest son, Sean Edwin, through a random and heinous act of violence. From the pain and scars of this family tragedy, Pastor and Missionary Bass have emerged with tremendous insight and empathy into the hurts and wounds of others, and have thereby enlarged their capacity for ministry.

Pastor Bass is especially energized by the opportunity to serve as President of Urban Initiatives because he is dedicated to building the Kingdom of God through the Church that he has cherished and participated in for a lifetime. In his words, *"This is an opportunity to bring a lifetime of learning and experience to bear on behalf of the Church I love and under the direction of an awesome, visionary leader, Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr."*

Those who know Pastor Bass well can attest to his intellectual and leadership competencies, but they are more profoundly impressed by his deep sense of loyalty, integrity, humility and fervor for the things of God.

Implementation Strategy

- After concluding needs assessment, develop and make available to local churches a comprehensive electronic database of model programs, tools, training videos and other educational resources.
- Identify and replicate the "best practices" being utilized within our network of churches and ministries.
- Provide comprehensive infrastructure developmental assistance to our local churches enabling them to more effectively carry out Urban Initiatives' mission including, but not limited to:
 - **PROVIDING THE LOCAL CHURCH** with

“fundable”, “ready to implement” programs.

- **TEACHING THE LOCAL CHURCH** how to identify “fundable” programs that meet community needs.
- **TEACHING THE LOCAL CHURCH** how to obtain local funding to support outreach programs and ministries.
- **GIVING THE LOCAL CHURCH** access to funding through national sources, both public and private.
- **ASSISTING THE LOCAL CHURCH** with strategy development and implementation.
- **PROVIDING THE LOCAL CHURCH** accountability coaching.
- Maximize the number of funding opportunities by utilizing a broad strategy to navigate varied perceptions and preferences commonly held by funding sources (example: willingness to give to secular vs. sacred organizations).
- Collaborate with COGIC departments, auxiliaries and other initiatives to identify opportunities for synergy.
- Create immediate capacity by entering into partnership with organizations that meet our requirements.

Infrastructure/Capacity Needs

- Online Programs, Online Training, Live Simulcast Technology and Online Alerts for rapid communication. (If research indicates the need, we will create a temporary paper process to provide program access to churches not yet connected to the internet while implementing an aggressive strategy to get all churches online.)
- Local, State and Regional Development Conferences and Workshops using existing COGIC resources and including strategic partners.
- A network of top instructors and hands-on experts for the following:
 - Education Programming for all ages
 - Job Training/Job Development Programming
 - Crime Reduction Programming
 - Prisoner Reentry Programming
 - Family Counseling and Development Programming
 - Fund/Resource Development
 - Community Outreach Programming
 - Financial Literacy and Homeownership Programming
 - Tax Credits, Community Development and Affordable Housing Programming
- A network of philanthropists, foundations and government sources who will consider proposals from COGIC on a national level.
- A proven implementation system.
- Accountability and Evaluation systems to ensure local churches experience success with implementation.

Expected Results

As a result of the successful implementation of Urban Initiatives, the quality of life will be dramatically improved for millions of people.

- In communities served by churches active in Urban Initiatives, one or more of the following changes will occur.

We will use available baseline data to quantify :

- **Education**
 - Reduced high school dropout rate
 - Increased number of African-American men in college or training compared to those incarcerated
 - Increased enrollment in college or training for males and females
- **Economic Development**
 - Reduced community unemployment rate
 - Increased community job inventory
 - Increased affordable housing inventory
- **Crime**
 - Reduced incarceration rate for African-American males
 - Reduced prison recidivism rate
- **Family**
 - Teenage pregnancy reduced
 - Decrease in number of fatherless households
 - Divorce rate decreased
 - Decreased rate of sexually transmitted diseases
- **Financial Literacy**
 - Increased average combined household savings & investments
 - Increased homeownership
- Local churches will be empowered with increased self-esteem, fueling even greater participation from their members. This will increase skills-based volunteerism.
- Participating local churches will enjoy increased membership and better attendance resulting in more income.
- COGIC's overall number of churches and ministries will increase.
- COGIC will be universally recognized as America's faith-based authority concerning urban social, economic and community development issues (e.g. Catholic Charities, Salvation Army).
- COGIC will receive major public and private funding to continue our urgent work in America's urban communities.

Here's what's happening right now

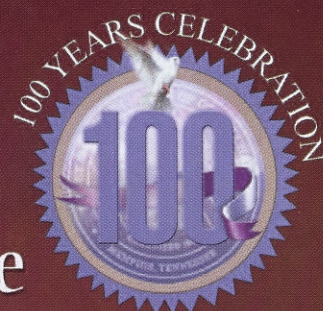
- Bishop Blake's appointment as a Member of the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships brings our urban agenda to the attention of President Obama, giving us greater credibility, uncommon access and a voice in the nation's seat of power.
- We are participating in regular, scheduled meetings with the Obama administration.
- We are in the process of finalizing the organizational structure for Urban Initiatives.
- Job descriptions are being developed and will be posted on-line in the near future. At that point, if you are interested in serving, or know of someone that should be considered, please submit a resume.
- We are building systems, strategies, structures and procedures to satisfy the need to be fully accountable in all aspects to leadership.

(Continue on page 33)

CENTENNIAL VIDEO

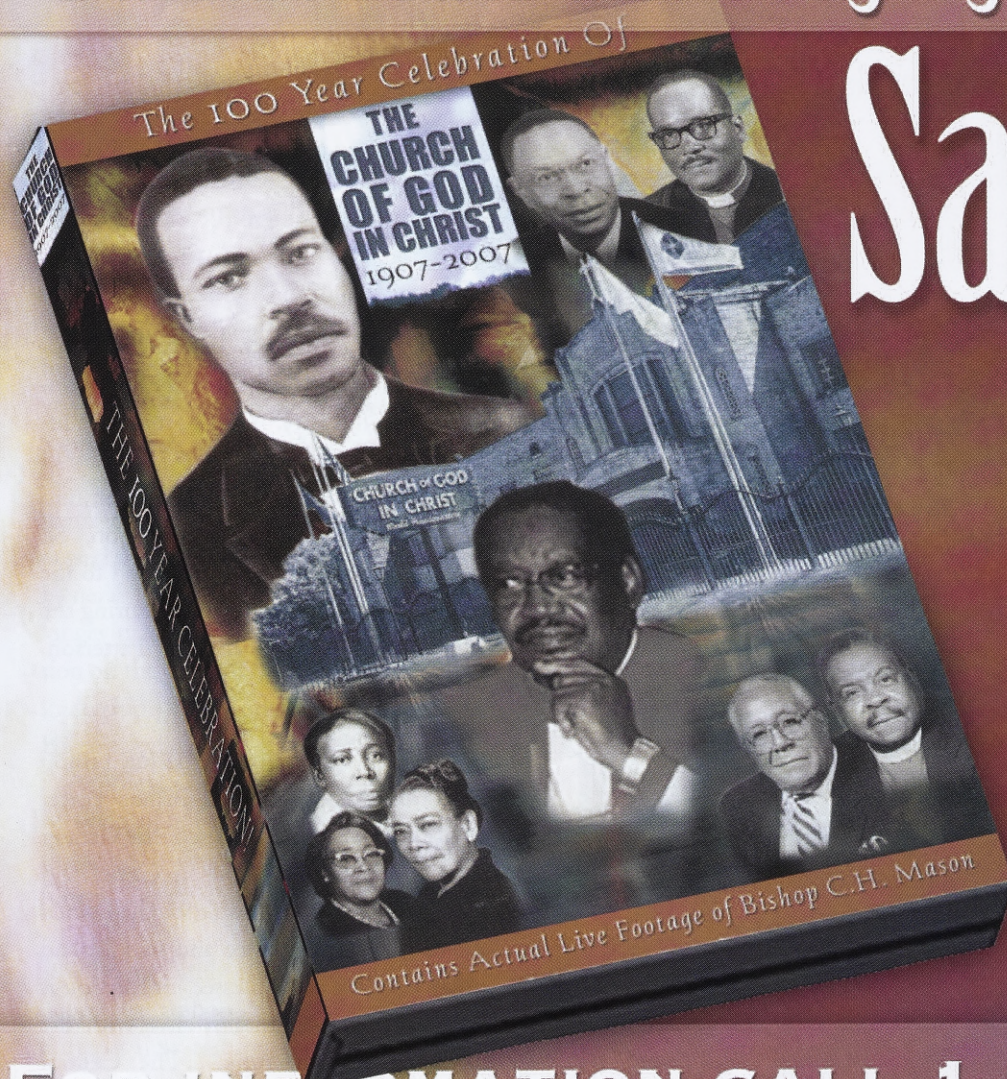
Double Set Package

\$30.00 each and \$5.00 shipping charge



Every Home Should Have a Set!

Pastors Order The Congregation Special!



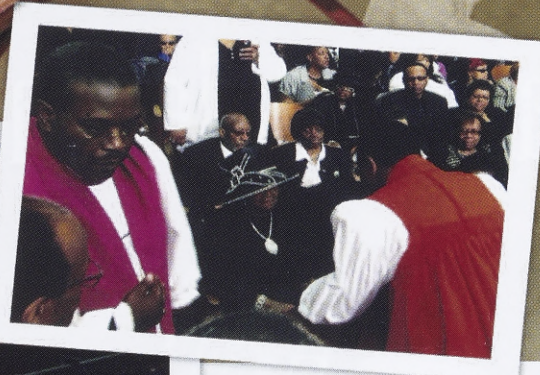
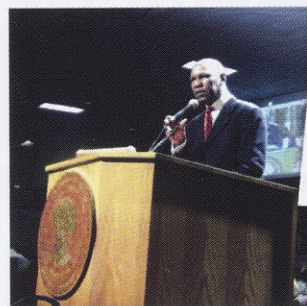
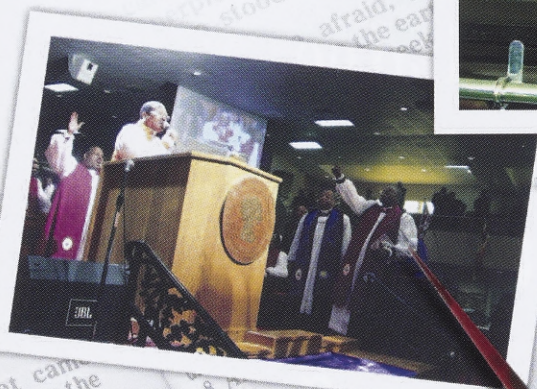
Save! Save! Save!

Send To: COGIC Centennial Video
P.O. Box 22
Memphis, TN 38101

FOR INFORMATION CALL 1-800-947-9350

WWW.COGIC.ORG

Rites for Bishop W. L. Porter



Bishop W.L. Porter

Memphis, TN- The Church Of God In Christ buried one of its stalwart members in the person of Bishop Willie Lee Porter. The Emeritus Prelate of the Central Tennessee Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction had suffered a long period of illness but was content and anticipated his homegoing. He slept away as a saint in the presence and care of his loving family and church community. For years Bishop Porter was the "Man in Memphis," that is the individual the city turned to for the ins and outs of COGIC organizational activities. His record of stellar support of the leadership and compassion for the ordinary saints who made the annual pilgrimage to Memphis is well known. Whether finding hotel rooms or emergency services for those stranded, Bishop Porter never let anyone down. If anyone was an inveterate worker, W. L. Porter was the definition of that character.

Bishop Porter and his devoted wife, Missionary Ida Madie Flagg Porter served the Church Of God In Christ for the length of their

55 year marriage. Madame Porter is a singing missionary and classic pastor's wife. The two of them were the model of the traditional COGIC husband and wife team ministry. They started with literally nothing but willing hearts and a love for God. The sense of devotion brought then Elder, W. L. Porter, into the influence of Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. Bishop W.L. Porter became a right hand to the presiding bishop's office and worked during the entire tenure of Presiding Bishops Patterson, Ford and Owens.

In this long tenure of ministry, pastor, bishop and extraordinary businessman, Bishop Porter utilized his skills to found a church, the Greater Community Church Of God In Christ and eventually a jurisdiction. People laughed when he went to Middle Tennessee and said he had more trees than saints. Today the Central Tennessee Jurisdiction is a productive and expanding organization that is alive with the Spirit and effective ministerial programming. The Central Tennessee Jurisdiction was a vision of Bishop Porter's imagination

and human insight, and in 1981 he was commissioned by Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. to develop the central area of Tennessee.

The efforts of Bishop Porter evolved into a blessing for the entire Church. His contacts, both social and business developed the organization's influence in the highest level of city government. The vast majority of the congregations in Central Jurisdiction got their start and operation from the largesse of Bishop Porter. Likewise, the General Church benefitted from the largesse of Bishop Porter's work. There was nothing he would not do to advance the cause of the Church Of God In Christ. Having his kind of initiative and influence made some uninformed persons criticize his methods, but he took it all with a measure of grace and understanding.

Bishop Willie Lee Porter was born at 230 Webster Place in Memphis, Tennessee on June 18, 1925. Social pressures and his place of birth offered many barriers to overcome and not much was expected from young Willie Porter and his siblings. Up from an impoverished world of poor Blacks, Willie Porter found the Church Of God In Christ under the ministry of Elder Jerry Jones. The charismatic Jones was the pastor of New Jerusalem Church Of God In Christ. From that beginning and his long association with Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., Bishop Porter excelled. Bishop Porter started the Public Relations Department in association with Bishop L.H. Ford and was a mainstay in the many ancillary projects that help build our Church into an institution.

On Friday, April 17, the Church gathered at Mason Temple to hear the Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake speak the eulogy. It was fitting that the last place atop soil for Bishop Porter to be seen was the venerable Mason Temple. Gospel recording artist, Reverend Marvin Sapp sang his mega hit, "Never Would Have Made It" in honor of the late bishop. Presiding Bishop Blake commented on the skill and management principles that characterized the Porter years. He witnessed that Bishop Porter's abilities were rewarded with a seat on the General Board of Bishops. Though his tenure was not long, his longevity and quality service over the years left an indelible impression on the Church Of God In Christ. The leaders of the Church's leadership came one after another and spoke of Bishop W.L. Porter's dedication. Bishop Blake mused and said, "Bishop Porter knew the saints were coming to Memphis for the April Call Meeting. He was accommodating and working out situations for the saints as usual. To keep the saints from traveling back for the funeral, Bishop Porter managed to slip away at a convenient time."

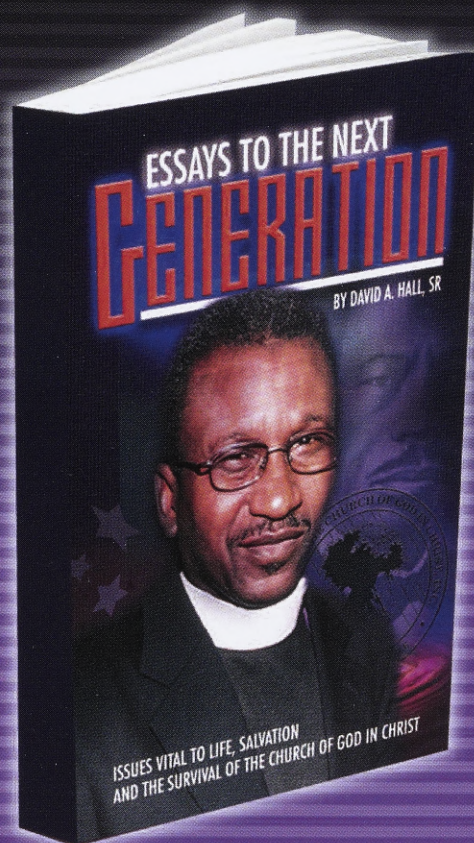
The Porter family and the saints of the Central Jurisdiction can be happy that Bishop Porter finished his course well. Bishop Brandon Porter is now carrying forth the faithful legacy of his father in the Central Tennessee Jurisdiction. The entire Porter family will be mentioned in the prayers of the saints. ☉

Essays to the Next Generation

TEN ESSAYS TO THE PRESENT AND COMING GENERATIONS ON ISSUES VITAL TO LIFE, SALVATION AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

1. WHY THE ELECTION OF 2000 WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE 1968
2. TITHING: SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH
3. STEM CELL RESEARCH: MURDER OR MEDICINE?
4. ABORTION: IMMORAL DECISION AND THE COGIC RESPONSE
5. CAN WE SAVE THIS ORGANIZATION? EFFECTIVE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY
6. INTERRELATING WITH THE COGIC JUDICIARY BOARD
7. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: AN EMERGING POLICY
8. GAY RIGHTS! RESPONSE OF THE SANCTIFIED CHURCH
9. WOMEN'S ORDINATION, HAS ITS TIME COME?
10. WAR! AND COGIC CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION


Buy This Book and Be Challenged!





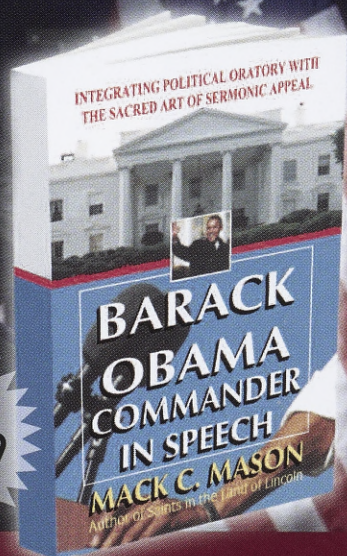
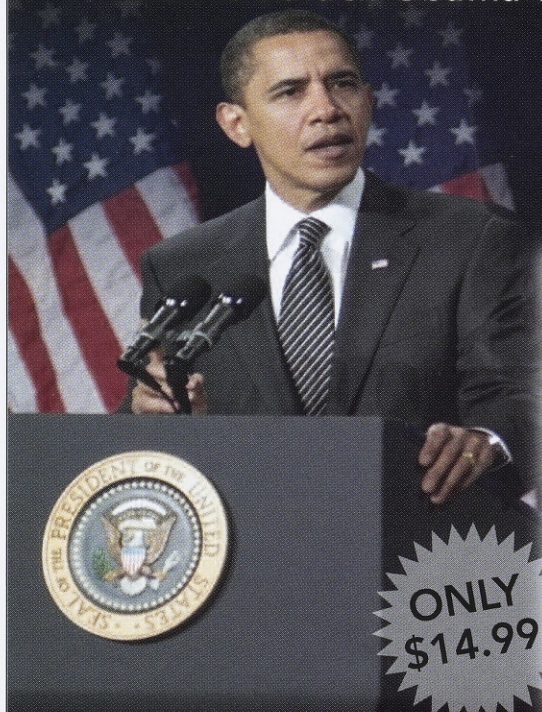
Election Correction

The Whole Truth regrets an error in reporting the totals of the 2008 election results for General Trustee. The following is a corrected list that accurately presents the vote totals. The staff apologizes for the mistake.



Missionary Sylvia Law	2,950
Bishop Charles Ford	2,756
Superintendent Brandon Porter	2,639
Elder Charles H. M. Patterson	2,536
Superintendent Dickerson Wells	2,419
Supervisor Mildred Linzy	2,247
Elder Josephus Shepherd	2,077
Elder Amos Smith	2,004
Bishop Dwight Green, Sr.	1,889
Missionary Cari V. Barnes	1,876
Bishop William T. Cahoon	1,814
Elder Dwight Walls	1,745
Mother Georgia M. Lowe	1,663
Pastor Joseph A. Chase, Jr.	1,632
Pastor David A. Hall, Jr.	1,594

"Inspired by the Black Church and its dynamic preaching tradition, President Barack Obama is one of the truly great orators of our time!"



ONLY
\$14.99



Pastor Mack C. Mason,
Author of

"Saints In the Land of Lincoln and
Make Room for the Holy Ghost"

Available at www.cogicpubhouse.org or call 901.747.0477

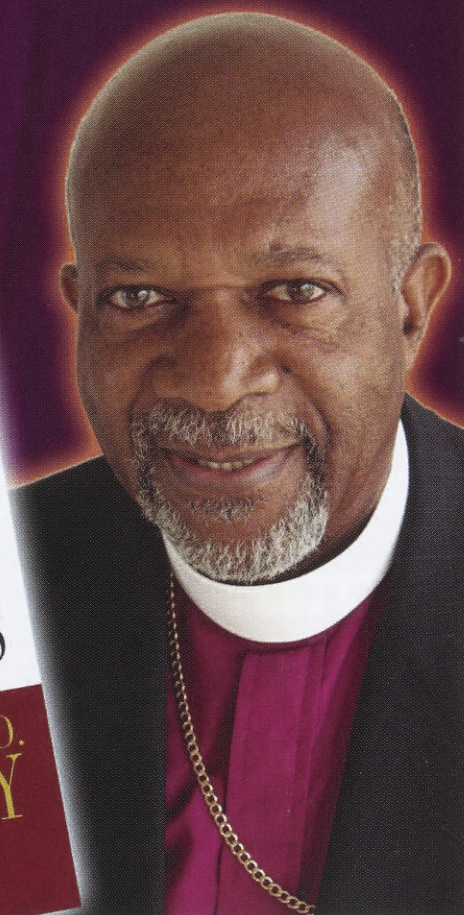
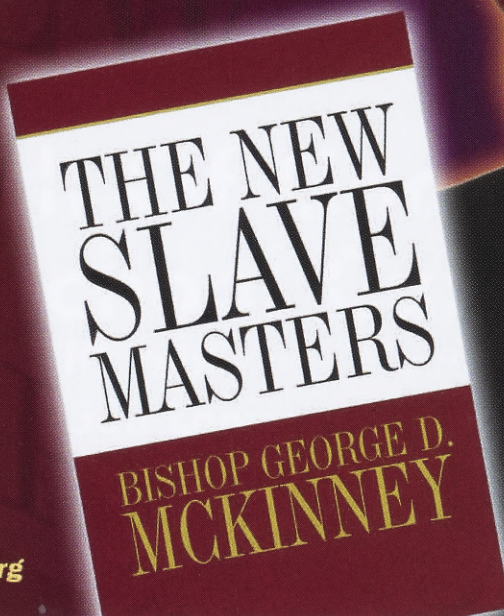


Read Bishop McKinney's exciting new book and discover tangible solutions to the ills that plague our American Society

60 years of commitment to humanity through total faith in God

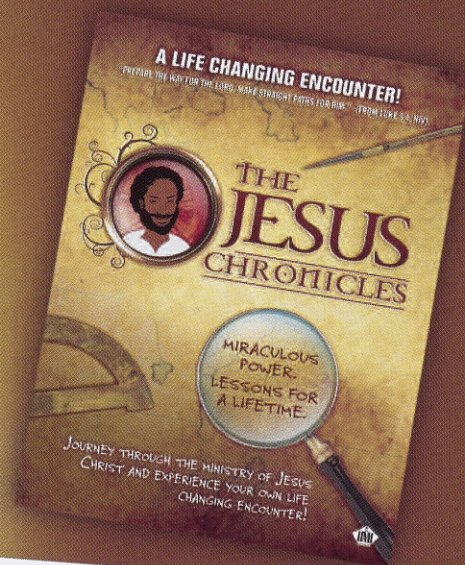
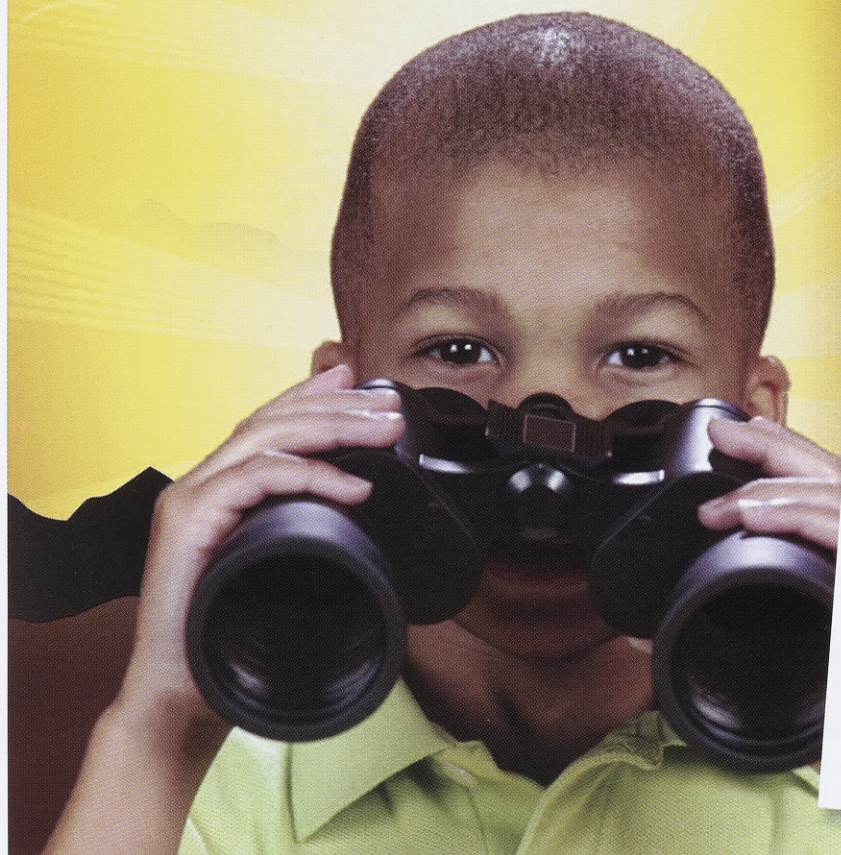
"THE NEW SLAVEMASTERS"

In The New Slavemasters, Bishop McKinney asks the question: Are we really free at last? In his 224-page response, the "new slavemasters" become a powerful metaphor for the contemporary African-American struggle, as well as seemingly insurmountable cycles of destructive behavior that have enslaved people of all walks. The new slavemasters are drugs, materialism, racism, teen pregnancy, rage, gangs, pornography, instant gratification, and sexual promiscuity, among others.



www.ststephenscogic.org

Alabama 1st Jurisdiction Introduces VBS



Mobile, Alabama - Bishop Oscar L. Meadows and the Alabama First Jurisdiction introduced the Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum for Summer 2009 at his winter convention. The VBS curriculum was presented during the Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and now the task to market it to the local congregations around the country has started. At the Jurisdiction Ministers and Workers Meeting of Alabama First Jurisdiction the curriculum was introduced, examined and received approval from the delegates in attendance.

Dr. David A. Hall, Sr., CEO of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing House, traveled to the Gulf Coast of Alabama and enjoyed his time with the saints. Dr. Hall stated, "Prelates like Bishop Oscar L. Meadows help bring the programs and initiatives of the General Church to local congregations. His forward thinking and generous heart makes the whole Church stronger top to bottom. It is necessary for our congregations to use approved curriculum and the support of jurisdictional Bishops is essential."

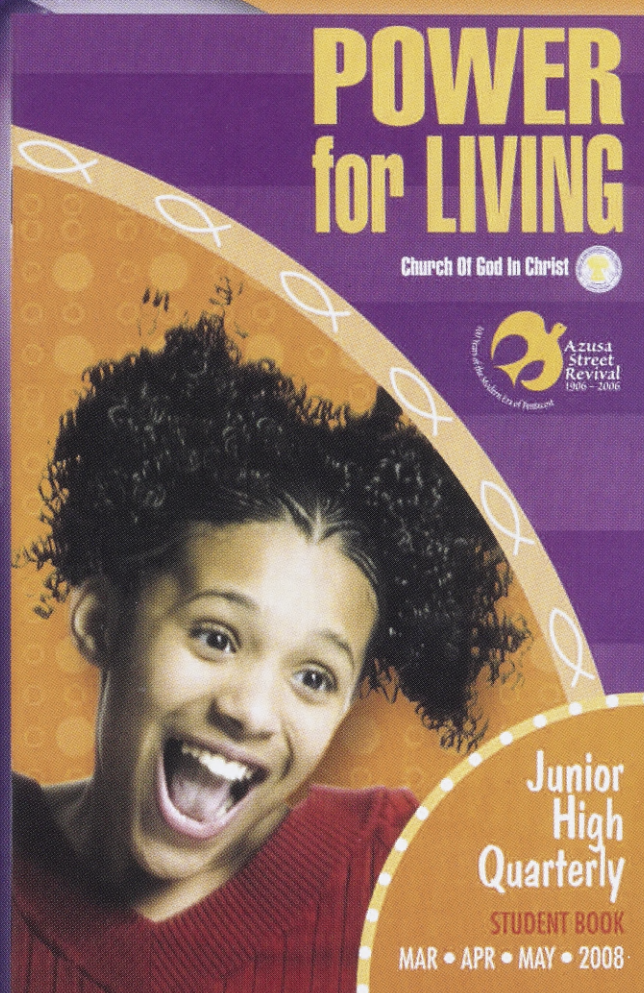
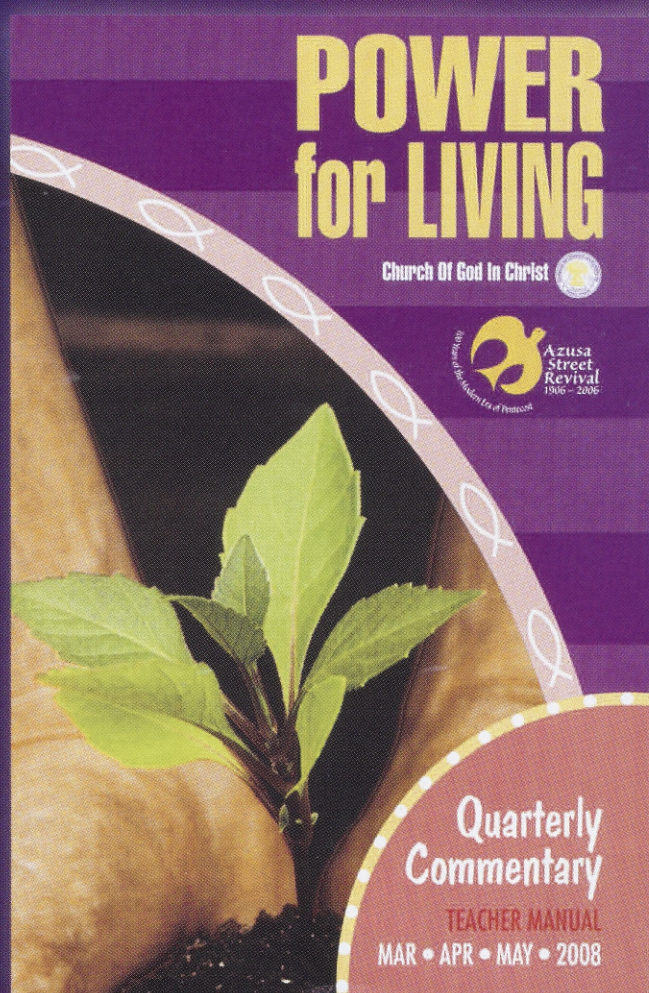
Bishop Meadows presented Dr. Hall with a ringing endorsement. Dr. Hall used the opportunity to acknowledge the support of the

Bishop. He preached a soul stirring message and the saints heard a tremendous word. The following day Dr. Hall unveiled the Vacation Bible School curriculum to a group of local church educators and personnel. Both pastors and teaching personnel examined the curriculum and were pleased with the color, graphics and the exciting storyline. Dr. Hall sold every box of VBS materials he brought to Alabama. Bishop Meadows stated, "It is important for our jurisdiction to participate with the General Church. The Publishing House is attempting to help our local congregations grow and present quality materials into every locale. I endorse this material and I am glad so many of you have purchased or expressed an interest in the VBS materials."

Dr. Hall will have the VBS materials at many jurisdictional conventions. You can see him there or simply call the Publishing House at 901-744-0485 to order VBS curriculum and supplies directly from the Publishing House. Go on line and view the website at: cogicpubhouse.org and purchase your materials for the Summer. ☺



Azusa
Street
Revival
1906 - 2008



Buy Church Of God In Christ Sunday School Curriculum

COGIC Publishing House

2500 Lamar Ave.

Memphis, TN 38114



901-744-0477

YPWW Core Group Meet

SCHOOL

PERFORM



President Dillard and Chair Lady Joyce Rodgers

Memphis, TN- Pastor Linwood Dillard, newly appointed President of International Youth Department conducted a brainstorming session with his youth cabinet. Presiding Bishop Charles Blake targeted the youthful and energetic pastor and presented him the task of innovating the department. The department has always been at the core of the Church Of God In Christ's unique approach for training and developing the next generation of leaders.

Pastor Dillard stated, "I brought these people together so that our program would be fresh and ready to impact the lives of our children. These people have come at my invitation and their own expense. We are here to examine and re-examine our methods and resources." Pastor Dillard is glad that Evangelist Joyce Rodgers remains as International Chairlady. She is a veteran youth worker and is highly respected for her spiritual but practical approach with young people.

The group meet in both whole and breakout sessions to cultivate thought and dialogue. The energy was high and the results proved



Pastor Linwood Dillard

good. Pastor Dillard and the group are aware that value orientation is critical in the world. "Our COGIC youth are face with massive challenges. The voices competing with the Church for our youth can be overwhelming," expressed the president. He indicated that he was standing on the shoulders of great leaders and that his task would be accomplished through his being faithful to the values that brought the saints thus far. "I stand on the shoulders of nine great men-Elder M.C. Green, Bishop O.T. Jones, Sr., Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr., Bishop C.D. Owens, Bishop William James, Bishop Charles Brewer, Superintendent J. Drew Sheard, Superintendent Brandon B. Porter and Superintendent Michael Hill," commented Elder Dillard.

To his credit the President has some fine workers in the camp. Newly appointed Vice-Presidents, Elder Willard Payton, Elder Michael Golden, Elder Benjamin Stephens, Elder Micaiah Young, and Elder William Watson will help him execute an aggressive agenda. ☺

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

WE
will match or
beat other leading
generic drug
programs, and will
mail your prescrip-
tions to you at no
extra charge.

AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAM FOR SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS

In the ongoing effort by the Community Health Initiative to deliver benefits and cost savings to its members, we are proud to announce the newly revised generic **mail order prescription drug program**.

This new and exciting program not only matches or, in some cases, offers lower prices offered by major retail chains, **but** we will ship your order, free of charge, via first class mail, to your home or business.

You can now be a member of **DrugPlace** and benefit from the low-cost generic drug program available. You will be saving 8-20% below similar programs.

With the cost of gas rising daily, you can eliminate the drive to your pharmacy. Imagine not having to stand in long lines to pick up your new prescription or refills.

We will make available to members the option to choose either a 30-day supply or a 90-day supply; it will be your decision. And, for no additional cost we can automatically send your refills or call to remind you of them. You will decide what is right for you.

This program includes an extensive list of covered generic equivalents, which you will find on the next page. You have an unconditional guarantee as to their equivalence to their branded alternatives.

PROGRAM COST: 30-DAY SUPPLY PER ATTACHED LIST **\$3.79**
90-DAY SUPPLY PER ATTACHED LIST **\$9.99**

THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF DRUGPLACE, WHICH IS THE EXCLUSIVE PHARMACY HEALTH PROVIDER FOR THE COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP AND GET STARTED

CALL: 877-599-8050

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A PORTION OF EACH PURCHASE WILL BE DONATED TO THE GRACE FUND.

DISCOUNT VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS FROM CIRCLE OF LIGHT

Circle
of Light

1.877.599.8050

www.circleoflightvitamins.com

When you purchase Circle of Light vitamins and nutritional supplements, you are attending to your health needs while completing the circle of giving.

For every Circle of Light purchase made, a portion of the proceeds will go to help acquire prescription medications for the underprivileged and uninsured.



Circle of Light. Taking care of your health and supporting the health of those less fortunate.

Exclusively available from the Community Health Initiative and DrugPlace pharmacy

ITEM DESCRIPTION

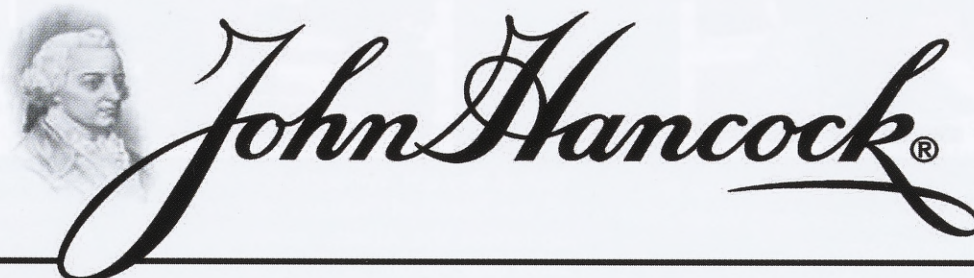
PRODUCT VALUE AND RECOMMENDATION

B12 Sublingual 1000MCG	Vital for energy production, healthy nerve function and cell formation
B Complex	Essential for keeping your brain, blood pressure & numerous body functions in balance
C 500MG Ascorbic Acid	Potent anti-aging vitamin that boosts the immune system & promotes gum health
Chromium Picolinate 200MCG CO	Plays a key role in carbohydrate and fat metabolism
Enzyme Q-10 100MG	Powerful antioxidant vital for a healthy heart & cholesterol
Cranberry 140MG Concentrate	Promotes urinary tract and bladder health
D 400IU	Promotes bone health and supports healthy blood pressure levels
Daily Multivitamin	SAME formula as One-A-Day®, LOWER price
E 400IU DL-Alpha	Recognized antioxidant for a healthy heart, immune system and prostate
Folic Acid 800 MCG	Essential for women in their child-bearing years to prevent spinal birth defects and also essential for healthy heart
Garlic, Odor Free	SAME formula as Kwai®, LOWER price Promotes normal cholesterol & blood pressure levels, a healthy heart & immune system
Glucosamine & Chondroitin Maximum Strength	Soothes joint discomfort effectively without side effects by repairing and rebuilding cartilage
Niacinamide 500MG Flush Free	Promotes energy through the metabolism of fats, carbohydrates and proteins
Magnesium 200MG	An essential mineral that supports nervous system and heart health
Omega 3 Fish Oil 1000MG	May reduce the risk of coronary heart disease
Potassium Gluconate 595MG	Supports normal blood pressure levels and a healthy heart
Saw Palmetto Extract 160mg	Promotes healthy urinary frequency and flow Aids healthy inflammatory response in the prostate
Selenium 100MCG	Helps protect cells from free radical damage
Super Calcium + D 600MG	SAME formula as Caltrate®, LOWER price May help prevent Osteoporosis
Vision with Lutein	SAME formula as Ocuvite®, LOWER price Protects the sensitive cells of the eye, supporting vision health
Complete Multivitamin	SAME formula as Centrum®, LOWER price
Complete 50+ Multivitamin	SAME formula as Centrum Silver®, LOWER price

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

Elder L.V. Plummer Receives John Hancock's Top Sales Performer's Award

By Patricia A. Rogers Public Relations



Memphis, TN – Elder Laurence V. Plummer Sr., founder and CEO of Plummer Financial Services and Pastor of Love Fellowship Ministries in Memphis, has been named The Top No. 1 Sales Performer for the year 2008 among 1,800 sales representatives for John Hancock Financial Network.

Elder Plummer, the only African-American to receive the honor in the company's 140th year history, was honored at John Hancock's Financial Network Achieving Client Excellence (ACE) ceremony on March 23, 2009 in Miami, Florida.

According to Plummer, the award is designated for the individual who is the top producer in the world for new sales totals. The award also reflects the company's belief that sales excellence is a reflection of the level of professionalism, respect, integrity, and real value delivered to clients everyday.

"I have won everything I could win with John Hancock," commented Laurence V. Plummer about his 20 plus year history with the company. "I have achieved every major award the company offers. Winning this award is like winning the Grammy."

Plummer says that his main focus is not winning awards, but working for his clients and doing what is right and maintaining his good name. He added that building relationships with his clients and keeping them focused on their long-term financial goals can be attributed to the overwhelming success of his company.

Plummer Financial Services have more than 5,000 clients, including professional athletes, corporate executives, doctors, lawyers, Pastors, and recording artists.

For the last 10 years, Plummer has received achievements as a life member of John Hancock's Million Dollar Roundtable and President's Cabinet, John Hancock's Hall of Fame, Financial Network Chairman's Council and Who's Who in the Finance Industry.

Elder Plummer was licensed a Minister in 2003 by the late COGIC Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson and ordained an Elder in the Church Of God In Christ in July of 2004. Bishop Patterson appointed him his Chief Administrator from 2000-2006 and Chairman of the multi-million dollar building fund for Temple of Deliverance's new worship center.

Elder Plummer opened the doors of Love Fellowship Ministries, 4475 S. Germantown Road on Father's Day, June 18, 2006 and has a thriving membership of more than 350 parishioners.

"It was a divine calling," Elder Plummer said. "It was something that was prophesied over the years. I grew up in the Church and was nurtured and groomed for ministry by my father and Bishop G. E. Patterson. Ministry is my real passion."

He currently serves as a financial advisor for the international COGIC and is on the Board of Directors for COGIC Charities. The son of COGIC Bishop T. W. Plummer and Missionary Laretta Lashley Plummer of Fairfield, Connecticut, he is married to Nadine L. Plummer and they have two sons, Laurence "L. V." Jr. and Laurenz; two daughters, Letitia and Laretta. ☺

C.H. Mason Seminary: A Legacy of Education Continues...

By Tamara White



Students and Alumni meet and share dinner at the annual Alumni/Student meeting during Founder's Week 2009 at the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary.



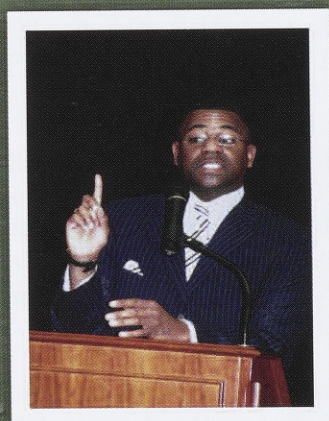
Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, General Board Member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of C.H. Mason Theological Seminary, addresses the Atlanta community during the Founder's Week 2009 celebration.



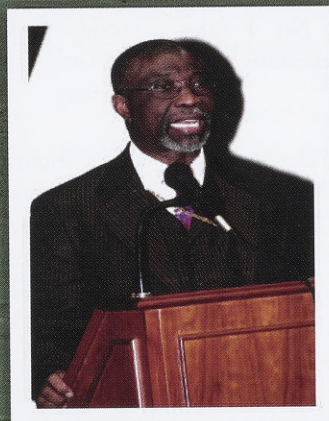
Shelia Baxter, student at Mason Seminary, delivers a paper on the COGIC: "Missions and Ministry: A Theological Perspective"



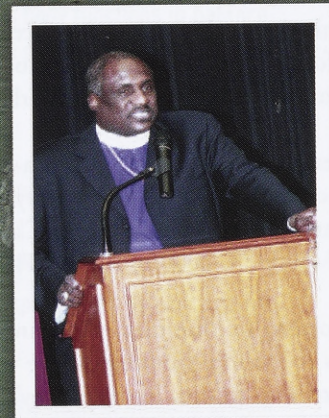
Bishop Chandler D. Owens, receives the C.H. Mason Seminary person of the year award for his community service and commitment to support of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary



Pastor A. Mosley, Class of 90, reports on the missions work of his local congregation in Malaysia during Founder's Week 2009.



Bishop G. Adebajo, Bishop of Pakistan, delivers a lecture on "The COGIC: Missions and Ministry in a Muslim Country"



Bishop Bobby Henderson, Uganda, and Vice President of the International Missions Department, presents an overview of the ministry in the COGIC during Founder's Week 2009.



Supervisor Gloria Rodgers, Nigeria, delivers a lecture on "The COGIC Missions and Ministry in West Africa." The lecture was delivered during Founder's Week 2009 at the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.



Bishop J. Macklin, 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop of the COGIC, delivers the official Founder's Week celebration of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary.



General Board Members, Jurisdictional Bishops, Past Deans of C.H. Mason Theological Seminary pose with the Board of Trustees of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary during the annual Founder's Week scholarship banquet during the Founder's Week celebration of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary.



Students, Alumni, and the Atlanta community at large join in worship during the 2009 Founder's Week celebration of the C.H. Mason Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.



General Board Members Chandler Owens, 6th from right and Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J.W. Macklin (2nd from the right) pose with students and alumni during the 2009 founder's week celebration of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary.

Each year the C.H. Mason Seminary celebrates Founder's Week during the last week in February. Alumnae, the Trustee Board (of the C.H. Mason Seminary), bishops, pastors, lay persons, current students and even potential students from all over come to celebrate the founding of our great school and remember those who made education here at C.H. Mason Seminary possible. It is quite an experience to see the COGIC Church at its finest come together to support the pursuit of excellence in the field of Theological Education.

This year was another stellar celebration as Dean Bennett welcomed the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop, Bishop Jerry W. Macklin, Pastor Rosario Slack and Evangelist Vanessa Gatlin as guest speakers. The week of February 22nd was a week full of history, education and ministry. The Charles Harrison Mason Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center celebrated its 39th Annual Founder's week. A symposium on missions and ministry was held as well as an annual Official Day Chapel service. The week of celebration culminated with a well attended banquet.

Tuesday's kick off with the Symposium on Missions and Ministry, facilitated by Dean Harold Bennett, gave ministers and students the opportunity to participate in a forum on the subject of missions and ministry. The symposium offered insight into what ministry and missions is and gave space for questions, answers and concern. Later that evening, the Seminary hosted a Student-Alumni Social where current and former students met to catch up and encourage one another on the path of education and ministry. Elder David Hall presided over the social where Ms. Jessica Wiley was presented with the student of the year award and Dr. David Hall was presented with alumni of the year award.

Evangelist Vanessa Gatlin from Louisiana delivered the word at the Founder's week Wednesday night service where she figuratively

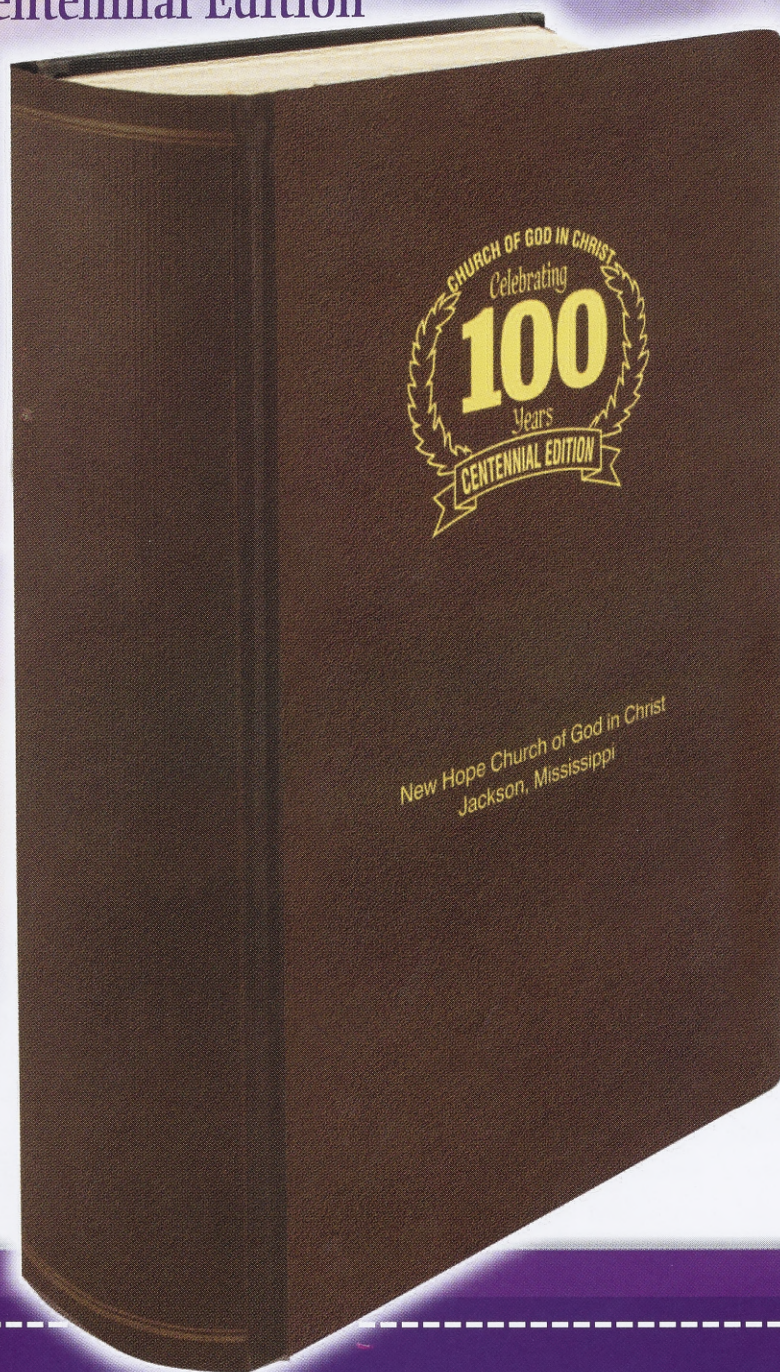
brought the house down. Then on Thursday morning for the official Day Chapel Service, Pastor Rosario Slack, D. Min. delivered a powerful message. Bishop Jerry Macklin gave the final message and addressed the C.H. Mason Founder's Week Banquet celebration where local, state and national pastors came in support of the seminary. This year Dean Bennett recognized Bishop Chandler David Owens for his generous and consistent support of the C.H. Mason Seminary and its students. Some of the other attendees and supporters included Pastor Joseph Hogan- Atlanta, GA; Bishop Felton Smith- Chattanooga, TN; Mother Mary Tucker- Supervisor of the Bermuda Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and a host of others.

As The C.H. Mason Seminary prepares to graduate three of the Church Of God In Christ's premier theologian on May 2, 2009, it is also preparing for another great historical event. The C.H. Mason Seminary will celebrate its 40th year milestone in 2010. This year proves that the legacy of dedicated COGIC students would make our founding Bishop proud. Young, gifted, Black and saved describes the three 2009 C.H. Mason graduates. During the banquet as each student addressed the guests and fellow laborers in the gospel and education, it was evident that this seminary has produced another crop of great ministry professionals. Rashan Nowell, Tamara White and Jessica Wiley each plan to pursue doctorate level work after graduation.

As the Founder's Week came to a close and the history of both the Church Of God In Christ and C.H. Mason Seminary are reflected upon, it was clear that the entire Church can be proud of the organization's accomplishment in higher education. For more than 39 years C.H. Mason Seminary has educated and produced PhD's, ministers, preachers, pastors, bishops, counselors, chaplains and a host of others who work in ministries the world over. They are bringing a solid Pentecostal message through the good news of the gospel and have not lost the COGIC flavor. ☪

Introducing The New Church of God in Christ Discipleship Bible Centennial Edition

Celebrating 100 Years



COGIC Centennial Bible

An effective tool for equipping COGIC Believers to share their faith

Discover a valuable resource for new member orientation classes

Be empowered with a scriptural understanding of the COGIC Distinctive

Enjoy daily insight into COGIC Essentials with 52 weeks of Daily Scripture Passages

Personalize the cover of your Centennial Bible with the name of your church, jurisdiction or ministry.

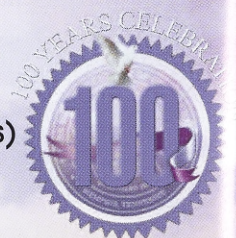
Send To: COGIC Centennial Bible
P.O. Box 22
Memphis, TN 38101
Call 1-800-947-9350

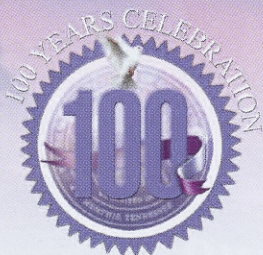
COGIC Centennial Bible - \$44.95 (each)

In Case Lots (24 Bibles per Case) The cost is \$39.95 (\$958.80 per case) and includes personalization of your Church, Jurisdiction, or Ministry name engraved on each Bible.

To reserve your Centennial Bibles, please enclose a \$10.00 reservation fee (credited to your order) and check the appropriate box below. *(Orders can be adjusted through April 1, 2007)*

- ☐ 1 Case (24 Bibles) ☐ 2 Case (48 Bibles) ☐ 3 Case (72 Bibles) ☐ 4 Case (96 Bibles)
☐ 5 Case (120 Bibles) ☐ 6 Case (144 Bibles) ☐ 7 Case (168 Bibles) ☐ 8 Case (192 Bibles)
☐ Check Here to reserve a single Centennial Bible - No Money Required





Order Form
 Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
 PO Box 22 • Memphis, TN 38101
 Phone (800) 947-9350 Fax (901) 947-3607 • www.cogiccentennial.org

Order Date: _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Phone: _____

QTY	ITEM#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
	BIB-DP-001	*CENTENNIAL BIBLES (DEPOSIT ONLY)	\$10.00	
	DVD-PK-001A	CENTENNIAL DVDS PACKS (4CT)	\$100.00	
	DVD-EA-001	CENTENNIAL DVD (EA)	\$30.00	
	CAL-EA-001	2008 CENTENNIAL CALENDAR (EA)	\$12.00	
	CAL-PK-001A	2008 CENTENNIAL CALENDARS PACKS (5CT)	\$40.00	
	CAL-CS-001B	2008 CENTENNIAL CALENDARS CASE (80CT)	\$640.00	
	CAL-EA-002	2006 COGIC CALENDARS (EA)	\$5.00	
	CAL-EA-003	2005 COGIC CALENDARS (EA)	\$5.00	
			SUBTOTAL	
			**SHIPPING & HANDLING	
			GRAND TOTAL	

* PLEASE NOTE: A minimum \$10.00 deposit PER CASE is REQUIRED on all Bible orders ONLY.

****SHIPPING & HANDLING COST CALCULATOR**

SUBTOTAL		SHIPPING/HANDLING		SUBTOTAL		SHIPPING/HANDLING	
\$0.00	-	\$12.00	\$2.00	\$300.01	-	\$400.00	\$40.00
\$12.01	-	\$30.00	\$7.00	\$400.01	-	\$500.00	\$51.00
\$30.01	-	\$50.00	\$12.00	\$500.01	-	\$600.00	\$60.00
\$50.01	-	\$100.00	\$17.00	\$600.01	-	\$700.00	\$71.00
\$100.01	-	\$200.00	\$33.00	\$700.01	-	\$1,000.00	\$90.00
\$200.01	-	\$300.00	\$34.00	\$1,000.01	-	\$2,000.00	\$121.00

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO SHIPPING

Method of Payment: ☐ Money Order ☐ Check ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Make checks payable: COGIC Projects • PO Box 22 • Memphis, TN 38101



COGIC Around the Globe

News from Across the Brotherhood

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Greets 9th Annual Education Luncheon

Memphis, TN—During the last year's 101st International Holy Convocation, the educational entities of the Church Of God In Christ came together for their annual luncheon for fellowship and to honor members for their academic, civic and ecclesia contributions. The luncheon was enhanced with the presence of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake who shared his own educational pilgrimage and encouraged the members to continue their diligent work. The 2008 honorees were Bishop George D.

McKinney, Bishop Frank H. Douglas, Superintendent Clarence Freeman, Evangelist Glenda Goodson, and Deacon Calvin McBride who also served as keynote speaker and shared new insights on COGIC history between 1908 and 1911.

The educational entities of the church present were Saints Academy, All Saints Bible College, C. H. Mason Theological Seminary, C. H. Mason Jurisdictional Institutes, COGIC Scholars, and C. H. Mason Historical Society.

Dr. Quintin Robertson served as Master of Ceremonies. Greetings and remarks were given by Bishop Donnie Lindsey, Bishop Malcolm Coby, Drs. Harold Bennett, Perry Little, David Daniels, Raynard Smith and Goldie Wells (Luncheon Co-coordinator). Many students and board members of COGIC schools were in attendance. Other guests were Dr. Ailean Stingley and Evangelist Sara Jordan Powell.

Evangelist J. Neaul Haynes Takes the City by Storm in a Soul Refreshing Revival!

Dallas, TX—Ushering in 2009 on a spiritual note, General Board Member Bishop J. Neaul Haynes was the Evangelist for the week for the Fellowship Revival held at the Lighthouse COGIC in Dallas. This revival, born out of a weekly prayer service started by the late Mother Queen Ester Jones, began when the late Mother Elsie Shaw conducted a prayer revival at Saintsville in 1994. After Evangelist Janice Craig suggested to her husband that pastors have a monthly prayer fellowship, they began a 4th Saturday prayer at 5:30 a.m. Superintendent Charles Craig, President of the Fellowship stated “since 1997 we’ve brought in persons from around the country but decided that we wanted to have the ardor as well as the wisdom of our leader this year.”

According to Bishop Haynes, “a revival is for the church, not the world. These pastors are to be commended for closing their churches but opening their congregations....” With wit, doctrinal exegesis, fiery messages such as “Encourage Yourself,” and “Do You Know Who You Are?” along with teaching sessions on “How To Access The Peace of God,” young people responded as they made their way to the altar with tears running down their cheeks. Those who had been healed danced and the saints received a refreshing from the Lord. Bishop Haynes declared that Friday Night was Holy Ghost Night and a majority of the 48 superintendents in Texas Northeast First were in attendance.

The Holiday Fellowship Revival pastors are Supt. Charles Craig, President (Faith Kingdom), Supt. Michael Clerkley (Lighthouse), Supt. Billy Joe (Prayer of Faith), Elder Wallace Holyfield (Zion Temple), Supt. F.G. Sowell (East Side), Supt. Andrew Ingram (El Bethel), Elder Craig Kelley (Temple of Deliverance), Elder Elijah Kelley, Jr. (Deliverance Chapel), Supt. Nathaniel Wells (Strong Arms) and Elder Ben Garrett (Victory Cathedral).

Pastor Charles Coleman Celebrates 3rd Anniversary

Saginaw, MI—On January 18, 2009 in Saginaw, Michigan, New Faith Temple COGIC saluted Pastor and Dr. Charles H. Coleman for three years of service. The Faith Temple Church was organized and established on July 4, 1963, at 216 Bradley Street by the calling of God, through the prayers and faith of Elder Allen and Missionary Roberta Paige along with Mother Josephine Roberson and inducted into the Northeastern Jurisdiction under the leadership of the Late Bishop C. J. Johnson.

The church has survived many years of challenges that perhaps would destroy many but has stood the test of time. Following the 1995 Homegoing of Superintendent Paige, the church thrived under the leadership of Sheppard Mother Roberta Paige, until her August 2004 homegoing. The church was under the watchful eye of its Presiding Prelate, Bishop Marvin C. Pryor, Southwest Michigan Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction until January 1, 2006 when he appointed the Elder Coleman, Sr. as commander in chief of the New Faith Temple church, now also known as the *Embassy on Burt Street*.

COGIC Missionary Accompanies Team to Dominican Republic

Olympia, WA—Evangelist Marva Cromartie Nyema writes “I praise God for blessing us with a wonderful short term mission trip to the Dominican Republic earlier this year. The team consisted of ten Americans from Pennsylvania, Florida, Colorado, Arkansas, and a brother from Haiti. We were blessed to have Mother Mary Beth Kennedy with us. Our intense week was filled with clinics that provided medical care to 1300 people who had no access to treatment.

Although I have been doing foreign mission for over twenty years, this was another humbling experience. My first two days were doing blood pressure (BP) readings and the following days were cleaning wounds, giving out medicine for ring worms and cuts. One lady whose daughter had a sore in her head began pulling out small lice. Because of my experience living in Liberia, I was able to recognize what it was. We did not have any medical shampoo with us but one of the older saints who has been an interpreter for the church since the late 60’s, Mother Bailey, told the mother what to do.

I shared with the saints that sweet potato and cassava leaves that they throw away and feed to the goats would be a good source of iron. I learned how to cook and eat these leaves while living in Liberia.

We were a blessing to seven of the Church Of God In Christ churches and communities. One day we did a clinic at the church and at the late Bishop Denny's school that he organized in Santiago. One community was blessed to receive a well which will now enable the saints and community to have clean water. In addition to providing medicine, some families received glasses, sandals and each family received rice and dry beans. All of the small children received a sucker. The workers and pastors that we visited received a care package. The Supervisor Mother Ruffina worked with the medical team daily.

Two of the churches organized an area where people would go for prayer and salvation, after receiving their rice and beans.

I thank God for my husband allowing me the opportunity to go on the mission trip and for the saints who not only prayed for the team but made it possible for me to go financially." Contact Sis. Nyema at 360.491.6364.

COGIC Platform Coordinator Attends Presidential Inauguration

Toledo, OH—Hazel Templeton, the National Women's Platform Coordinator was honored by the extension of an invitation to the Presidential Inauguration through the University of Toledo, where she re-entered after a 25 year absence from the classroom. Templeton was so focused that each semester she was listed on the Dean's List. In her last semester she made the President's List honoring her 4.0 GPA and was invited to join three honor societies of which she chose to join the University of Toledo Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and the Golden Key International Honor Society. By achieving the top 15 percent Golden Key International Honor Society nationwide, she was extended an invitation to attend the Presidential and Vice Presidential Inaugural Celebration held in Washington, D. C. January 17-21, 2009. She is currently attending graduate school with plans to stay in school until she receives a doctoral degree. Email her at haztemplattrain@yahoo.com.

Pictorial Records Legacy of Bishop F.D. Washington and Madame E.B. Washington

West Babylon, NY—Stating that their grandparent's lives served as legacy, Eric and Ernest "Fred" Washington have put together a book showing rare photos from the lives of that Prince of Preachers, Bishop F.D. Washington and the Songbird of the East Madame Ernestine Washington. For example, photos of the couple sharing a cruise vacation with the late Bishop and Mrs. J.O. Patterson, Sr., Bishop Washington enjoying a camel ride in Egypt and Madame Washington ministering during the annual Holy Convocation are a delight to take time and view. These sons of the church are also the founders of the non-profit COGIC Royalty which edify God through offering educational scholarships and offering counseling, support and guidance to PK's for Christ. Contact them at 631.669.0505, fdw.ebw@yahoo.com or Bishopfdw@aol.com.

Tamilnadu, India—COGIC India's III Jurisdiction Regional Overseer Dr. G.L. Blevin, held the 10th Convocation and Deliverance Festival of the Church Of God In Christ in January at the A.B.R. Hall in Chennai where attendees heard melodious singing, inspiring messages, and prayer for deliverance. In addition to Dr. Blevin, speakers included Bishop Michael Cole (USA) and Bishop Avel Forto (Philippines). Daytime seminars were conducted by Pastor S. Edison Victor in Kodungayoor. Dr. Blevin may be contacted No: 3-103, Lloyds Road, Kodaikanal, Tamilnadu, India- 624 101, Ph: 91.4542.241412 or 91.4542.24081, Mobile: 91.944.304.0814 U.S. cogic.india@yahoo.com.

Rosalind Jones Releases Sophomore CD

For Evangelist Rosalind Jones, *It's All About Praise*, the title of her new CD. I'm stuck on *Holy* as well as *I Worship You* but the entire album is a must have. If you love to join in worship make this project a part of your collection. For information contact her at www.rosalindandersjones.com.

Information on Foreign Missionary Workers Requested

Evangelist Glenda Goodson is seeking oral histories, documents, booklets, pamphlets, etc. on the work of pioneers in foreign missions from the early 1920s to 1970. Please contact her or forward a copy of the information. Each person will receive credit for their contributions to this important research. Additionally,

if any person having information on pioneers used in the gift of laying on of hands and healing (such as St. Samuel, Elder S.H. Jones and others), you are requested to forward it. You may write to P.O. Box 36, Lancaster, TX 75146. Call 972.227.9451; email GlendaGoodson@aol.com.

Off the Shelf

Church Of God In Christ writers are diverse and creative in getting their message across in prose and words set to music. And in 2008 the Whole Truth celebrates some of our best.

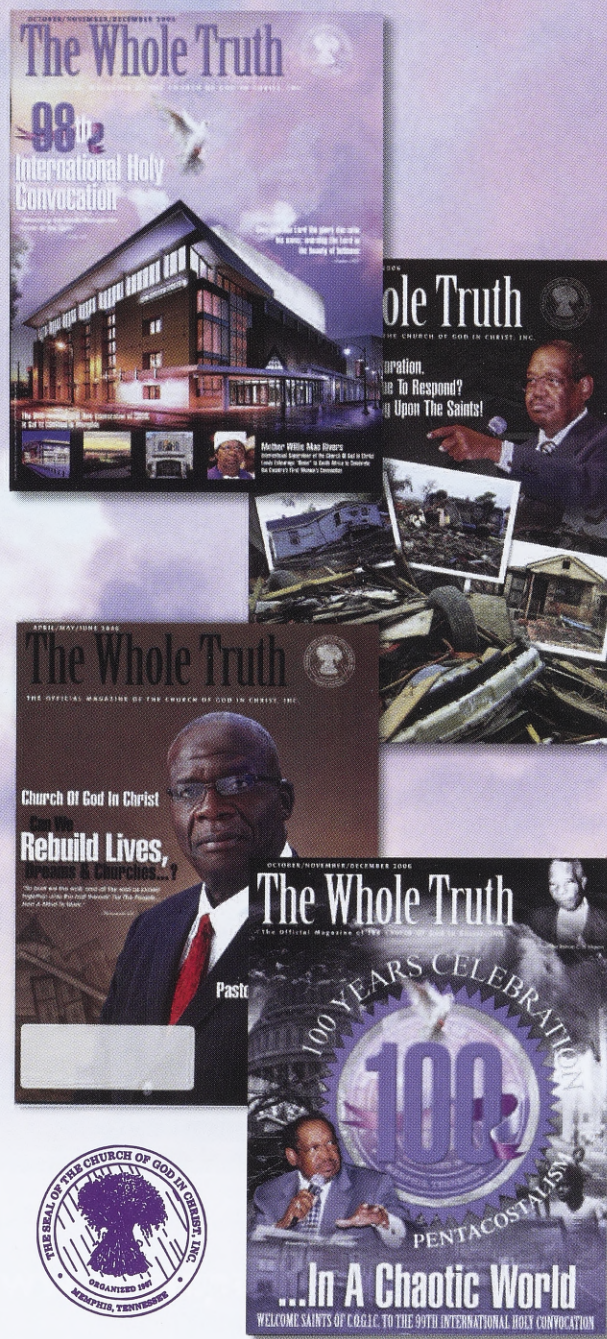
Statistics cite that one-half of the children in the United States will witness the breakup of a parent's marriage; Christians are just as likely as or more likely than non-Christians to experience divorce; divorce is a multi-billion dollar industry in America. Yet those statistics reveal nothing of the pain of divorce. In her book *"The Pain of Death" when there is no Funeral: It's Called DIVORCE*, one of COGIC's own Jurisdictional Supervisors, State Mother Edith McGrew (Central Georgia), writes courageously of how to get past feelings of rejection and failure. Although it took thirty-five years before she shared her story, Mother McGrew offers hope to readers who feel the shame of the death of their marriage because, as she writes, Christ came to bring life. She affirms that recovery and freedom from pain is available!

From the beginning of the book the reader will benefit from the insight of this wise woman as she affirms that God instituted marriage and it is to be enjoyed. She says "it is never God's desire that a marriage fails." Yet, when the unthinkable happens there are steps to recover which she shares in chapter 3. The accompanying workbook expands by bulleting *Reasons to Get Married, Right Reasons to Get Married, Steps to Better Your Marriage* and exercises such as *What is your plan to move forward?* Order the book and workbook by contacting Daybreak Consultant Services, Inc., P.O. Box 370863, Decatur, GA 30037.

In his freshman offering Deacon Calvin S. McBride painstakingly guides the reader step by step in discovering the seismic shift that took place as Dr. R.E. Hart left a brilliant career in the CME Church to join the newly formed band of believers who would follow Bishop C.H. Mason's Church Of God In Christ.

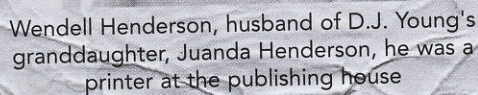
(Continued on page 34)

Subscribe to The Whole Truth Today!



Call: 901-744-0477

Let's Stop the Demise of the D.J. Young Publishing Co.



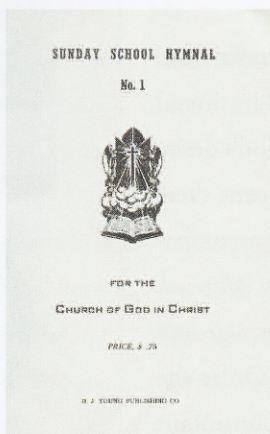
Wendell Henderson, husband of D.J. Young's granddaughter, Juanda Henderson, he was a printer at the publishing house



The building that once housed the D. J. Young Publishing Co., the publishing operation established by Church Of God In Christ's pioneer publisher, D. J. Young, is now in danger of being destroyed!

D. J. Young was one of the leading founders of the Church Of God In Christ, having taken the pilgrimage to the Azusa Street Revival with Bishop Charles H. Mason and as one of Bishop Mason's "ablest assistants" during those formative years. This former slave, professor, writer, inventor, composer and outstanding churchman was also the first Prelate of Arkansas, Texas and Kansas.

D. J. Young's publishing ministry for the Church Of God In Christ began in Argenta, Arkansas, in 1907, when the Lord moved him to spread the 'whole truth' of God's plan for mankind (salvation, sanctification and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost!) in print. Initially, the *Whole Truth* had a crucial role as it carried essential communications as well as the fiery testimonies and teachings of the early Saints of the Church Of God In Christ. Though he later relinquished his leading position with the *Whole Truth* in lieu of his work as prelate, he again assumed an awesome, unprecedented responsibility when, in 1916, after moving to Kansas City, Kansas, he began to publish the Church's first Sunday School literature. Prelate D. J. Young and his family served the Church Of God In Christ faithfully for many decades, propagating the message of holiness and the power of the Holy Ghost during a time when the written word was the primary means of communication.



Sunday School Hymnal

The D. J. Young Heritage Foundation was founded to preserve and restore the structure to a museum in honor of Bishop Young. However, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, has determined to seize the property for a road expansion project. *Please help us save this important landmark of the Church Of God In Christ.* The original church and home of D. J. Young were both destroyed by the city rendering this building the last remaining original structure of D. J. Young's legacy.

Despite tremendous odds and great opposition, our great Church now stands as one of the largest Holiness-Pentecostal denominations in the world. Wouldn't we be remiss to forget one of the leading *visionaries* who helped to make this dream a reality? It is vital that the voice of the Church Of God In Christ is heard during these crucial hours. Whether it's signing the petition urging city government to preserve this important historical landmark, writing Mayor Joe Reardon personally to proclaim your support and

interest or making a monetary donation, *you can make a difference.* Please contact the D. J. Young Heritage foundation today!

Your servant in Christ,

Ladrian P. Brown, MD, CEO,
D. J. Young Heritage Foundation
2401 North 9th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66102
(913) 579-2741 ☎

(Continued from page 12)

- We are receiving model programs from around the country and evaluating them for possible inclusion in our online database.
- Bishop Blake and Operation HOPE founder John Hope Bryant signed a historic partnership in which Operation HOPE will provide financial literacy training to youth and adults throughout COGIC. At the press conference that followed the signing, Bishop Blake said, *"I realize the importance of financial literacy in the advancement of a person's life. This part of the COGIC Urban Initiatives will help our people gain those so needed skills and this partnership is critical to making our mission a success."* John Bryant said, *"I am pleased to sign this historic agreement with a special visionary, community leader and the Presiding Bishop of more than 12,000 churches, who is also a person I have admired for 20 years. This strategic alliance will improve the lives of individuals throughout the United States by helping them make informed decisions, save for the future and also enhance economic activity in their communities."*
- We are evaluating other potential, strategic partnerships and opportunities for joint collaboration. Willingness to operate under the "COGIC" brand is one of the selection criteria.
- We are seeking baseline data against which we will measure and evaluate our progress.
- We are gathering data which will assess how many of our churches and ministries have internet access. That data will help us determine if indeed a temporary paper option needs to be created alongside the online portfolio.
- Each Jurisdictional Bishop has been asked to designate a Jurisdictional representative for Urban Initiatives. To ensure suitable candidates, a detailed job description has been mailed to each Bishop along with the request.
- We are in dialogue with COGIC departments, auxiliaries and other cutting edge initiatives created by the Presiding Bishop, actively seeking opportunities for synergy.

Here's how you can help

You can assist Urban Initiatives by submitting details of relevant programs offered in your church or ministry. All communications should be sent to:

Pastor Edwin C. Bass
Urban Initiatives, Inc.
C/O The Empowered Church COGIC
12220 Fontaine Lane
St. Louis, Missouri 63138
(314) 355-3444 edwincbass@aol.com

Finally, please be patient as we initiate efforts to make Presiding Bishop Blake's vision for Urban Initiatives a reality. This is an enormous undertaking requiring fervent prayer and deliberate action. Periodic progress reports will be posted on COGIC.com under Urban Initiatives, Inc. ☺



The Official web-site of the Office of the Presiding Bishop of The Church Of God In Christ.

- New and Streaming Video
- Announcements
- Theological Perspectives
- Prayer & Devotional
- Online Office
 - Staff Directory
 - Calendar
 - Contact Us
 - Networking

and much much more...

www.cogicpresidingbishop.org

(Continued from page 31)

"Walking into a New Spirituality" (subtitle *Chronicling the Life, Ministry, and Contributions of Elder Robert E. Hart, B.D. LL.B., D.D., to the CME Church and COGIC: With Some Additional COGIC History*) chronicles the rising star of Methodism from his boyhood. As an historian, McBride allows the reader to witness Hart's role as a founding charter member of the University of West Tennessee, his licensure as an attorney as well as heated exchanges recorded in the Christian Index prior to his excommunication from the CME church on charges of heresy. Most readers are familiar with Bishop Mason's half brother, Rev. I.S. Nelson, who baptized Mason but McBride uses his genealogical skills to mine information about siblings Joseph, Robert, Eliza, Mary, Jeremiah, their wives, livelihood and children.

In a fascinating account of the legal battles with his former colleagues, McBride includes a deposition of Bishop Mason on the stand "defending" his account of receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. COGIC Historian and McCormick Theological Professor Dr. David Daniels states, *"Walking Into A New Spirituality* destroys the myth that Bishop Mason did not believe in education because he surrounded himself with educated men...in key roles. Deacon McBride's work has closed [important] gaps in our understanding of the formation of our church."

Mack Mason has done it again. With his accounting of his grandfather's life in *On Heaven's Railway*, he continues the story of the formation, challenges and spiritual successes of the church through men like Bishop John O. Mason, a trailblazing broadcasting pioneer, former mortician and confidante of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. Although they were not related by blood, the two Mason were spiritual brothers. This recollection shares his salvation experience and subsequent love to see souls added to the kingdom, his call to ministry, ascent through the ranks beginning with pastoral ministry and district superintendent.

In a delightful account of *The Anonymous Friends of Jesus Christ*, Laura Simpkins uses a first person narrative in sharing twenty-one stories such as *A Woman Caught in Adultery*, *The Shepherds on a Call*, *A Blind Man Healed* and *A Certain Man with an Infirmary*. Simpkins says, "this book was written on behalf of the many anonymous friends that came into the presence of Jesus who had

no name." After hearing from them, the reader has a better understanding of how they may have felt after meeting Him. Contact [Infinity Publishing.com](http://InfinityPublishing.com) or call toll free (877) BUY BOOK.

Make Full Proof of Your Ministry is "A Guidebook to Empower the 21st Century Evangelist." Evangelist Diane L. North has compiled a comprehensive book for both the novice and the seasoned carrier of God's Word. In fact, in the foreword former International Department of Evangelism President Dennis L. Martin, Sr. writes "I appreciate the work of Evangelist Diane North...showing her passion and love for lost souls. It is my opinion that all who are called to the office of Evangelism will greatly benefit from the material..." As Evangelists follow the commandment to *Go and Make Disciples*, this book will give them a fresh look at what it also means to be a faithful evangelist, conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen, the benefits of good time-management skills, review job descriptions, how to introduce the Bible to new converts and much, much more. Contact Evangelist North at 816.419.0111 or email evangelist@dianenorthministries.org.

I'm going out on the limb here when I write that the newest offering from International Sunday School President Bishop Alton Gatlin, *Go Win!*, should be a must read for every leader (local, district, jurisdiction) in the Church Of God In Christ whether a new ministry or an established one that may not be experiencing growth. Bishop Gatlin pulls out the big guns beginning with the introduction when he writes "too many churches are trying to be established on music, preaching, teaching and many other facets to the body of Christ. But if there is no emphasis placed on soul winning, the church will have a difficult time surviving."

Operation Go Win focuses on the specific concerns of anyone involved in helping to make their churches grow. Topics include:

- Scripture Mandate
- Success Guaranteed
- Building a Winning, Spirited and Committed Team
- Training the Captains/Leaders

Furthermore, this book explains the details of soul winning. You'll understand topics such as:

- How to Share Your Testimony
- Preparing to Visit/Establishing Protocol for Visits

Contact Bishop Gatlin at 337.232.6958. ☎

Drugplace, the exclusive authorized pharmacy
of the Community Health Initiative
now delivers a cost-effective solution for your
pharmacy needs right to your front door.



Call Today 1.877.599.8050
and begin saving money on your
brand name and generic prescriptions.

www.drugplace.com

Your Source for Mail-Order Prescriptions



Church Leadership Compensation and Transactions Involving Church Property



C. Edward Watson



Kevin J. Arnel

One of the most unique things about the Church Of God In Christ ("COGIC") is that, while controlled by the rules and regulations contained in the Official Manual, each local congregation is managed a little differently, depending upon the needs and financial circumstances of the congregants and its Pastor. To that end, there are as many arrangements for compensating Pastors as there are jurisdictions within the COGIC. Some Pastors receive 1st and 3rd Sunday offerings and the Friday Night offering as their compensation. Some Pastors don't receive any offerings and are compensated solely from tithes. Some Pastors receive all of the tithes as well as offerings on 1st Sunday and the weeknight offering. And there are some Pastors that have pre-set salary arrangements. In addition, most Pastors expect to receive from their congregants a yearly Pastoral Appreciation or Anniversary offering. In some instances, that yearly offering can be as much as several thousand dollars. Of course, several congregations also "bless" the Pastor's wife with an offering on 5th Sundays. As you can see, there are a plethora of arrangements for Pastoral compensation. In many instances, there is no written agreement setting forth the compensation arrangement. It is just "understood." This is our custom and we have been doing it this way for decades.

As the Church grows and moves into its next 100 years of service in God's work, however, we must remember that how we operate our local congregations, and particularly how our Pastors are compensated, will receive a great deal of scrutiny from the government. One only has to think about the IRS request for information that was served on several large ministries last year to realize it will not take much for the government to turn its attention to the way we do business.

In the past we have discussed various issues regarding a Pastor's compensation and the ownership of Church property in the context of state law, domestic relations, and other areas of legal interest. Beyond these issues, and often overlooked, are very serious tax complications these situations can create for Pastors and local congregational leadership. IRS scrutiny and the concomitant negative consequences can arise when the Church fails to follow the proper steps in making and documenting the compensation or property decision, even if the Pastor is compensated (or otherwise deals with Church property) appropriately.

Of course, Churches have long been subject to rules prohibiting "private inurement" and "private benefit" - rules which prohibit the use of a Church's earnings or other assets for individual gain or personal purposes. Violating these rules can result in, among other things, the Church losing its tax exempt status. Beginning in 1996, however, Churches and their officers also became subject to the lesser known "intermediate sanctions" rules. Instead of revoking the Church's tax exempt status, these rules give the IRS the power to penalize, personally, the individuals who have participated in certain types of transactions. In other words, rather than the drastic sanction of potentially closing a Church by revoking its tax exemption, the IRS can instead invoke an intermediate sanction and personally penalize the individuals responsible for the transaction. In addition to the Pastor, responsible persons may include the board of directors, board of trustees or even the deacons if they are responsible for the compensation arrangement the Church has with its Pastor.

Under the intermediate sanctions rules, a Church's leadership (its officers, directors, trustees, deacons, etc.) can be personally

assessed a 10% penalty tax if they permit the Church to engage in an "excess benefit transaction." Additionally, a "disqualified person," (sometimes known as a "DP") who engages in an excess benefit transaction is personally liable for a 25% to 200% penalty tax. A DP is defined as any person who, at any time during the five year period ending on the date of such transaction, was an officer or director, or was otherwise in a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization. A member of such a person's family, or a business owned by such person, is also treated as a "disqualified person." Accordingly, Pastors and their family members will almost always be considered disqualified persons under the intermediate sanctions rules.

These penalty taxes apply to the amount of the excess benefit involved. In the case of compensation, the entire amount is presumed to be an automatic excess benefit unless specific rules set forth in Section 4958 of the Internal Revenue Code are followed. While it is critical to remember that intermediate sanctions tax issues often arise in connection with setting Pastor compensation, exposure also arises when a Church engages in other transactions with vendors or customers who are considered disqualified persons. Along those lines, Churches should consider:

Pastors and many other Church leaders (and their families/related businesses) are "disqualified persons." If a DP receives a direct or indirect economic benefit from the Church (i.e., salary, fees, reimbursements, property, business relationships, etc.) which exceeds the value of the consideration (i.e., services and/or goods) received from the individual, both the DP and the Church leaders who permit the transaction to occur may be subject to the penalty tax.

While the law is clear an individual does not need to accept reduced compensation merely because he or she is rendering services to Church, the Church should only pay fair market value for the services it receives and it must document the compensation arrangement appropriately.

Revenue sharing transactions and other payments which are not fixed in amount prior to the services being rendered (for example where the Pastor receives a portion of the Church's ongoing tithes or offerings) are viewed by the IRS as especially suspect. Revenue sharing not only creates additional issues under the intermediate sanctions rules, it can significantly raise the likelihood the IRS will argue the private inurement prohibition has been violated.

The law creates a "rebuttable presumption" that a compensation arrangement with a DP is reasonable when that arrangement is approved by the organization's governing body, or a committee thereof, that (1) is composed entirely of disinterested individuals (i.e., persons unrelated to and not subject to the control of the DP involved in the arrangement) in other words, the Church board cannot only consist of the Pastor's family); (2) obtained and relied upon appropriate market data as to comparability; and (3) adequately/timely documented the basis for its determina-

tion. When these three criteria have been satisfied, the IRS is restricted from imposing the excess benefit penalty tax to cases where it is able to develop sufficient contrary evidence to rebut the safe harbor presumption.

Many Churches engage in transactions with vendors who are (or who are owned by) Pastors, Church leaders, or other DP's. As noted above, a Church's arrangements with related vendors should always be approved by disinterested directors under the appropriate procedures. This should be done not only to limit claims of self-dealing, but also to obtain the rebuttable presumption that no excess benefit transaction has occurred.

As you would expect, the intermediate sanctions rules are long, complex, and contain many exceptions. The foregoing discussion merely highlights a few of the issues faced by Churches, their Pastors and leaders, and does not constitute legal advice. Churches which have questions regarding these rules, or which need assistance developing policies complying with these rules, should consult with their own tax and legal advisors.

Kevin Arnel has an extensive legal practice in the areas of tax exempt organizations, real estate, general business and estate planning. Mr. Arnel advises a diverse group of public charities, private foundations, and other tax exempt organizations regarding formation, operation, real estate, general business and compliance issues. Mr. Arnel also assists for-profit business clients with a wide range of real estate transactions including commercial and residential property leasing, acquisitions and development. He has broad experience working with small business owners, family-owned businesses, and professionals on general business issues and the development of simple and complex estate/succession plans. Mr. Arnel can be reached at karnel@foulston.com or 316.291.9761.

Charles Edward Watson, II provides advice to employers on day to day employment matters such as the application of the Wage and Hour Act to specific employment situations and complex litigation involving employment discrimination. Mr. Watson is also an ordained Elder in the Churches Of God In Christ and represents religious institutions of various faiths in their intra-denominational/ecclesiastical disputes relating to hiring and terminating pastors (and other church leadership) and litigation involving pastoral misconduct. Mr. Watson has also represented various hierarchical religious organizations in their efforts to preserve property rights and other disputes implicating Church polity. He practiced in Chicago, Illinois for 17 years before joining Foulston Siefkin in 2007. In Chicago, he represented small to midsize businesses in general commercial disputes, both pre and post litigation, and in matters before the State Legislature, Executive Branch and various City Administrative Boards. Mr. Watson has extensive experience helping companies coordinate legislative efforts, and drafting legislative proposals. Mr. Watson can be reached at cwatson@foulston.com or 316.291.9589. ☎

Rites for A Servant of God

Mother Ida Belle Bracy

Memphis, TN. - The saints gathered at Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church Of God In Christ to celebrate the life of Mother Ida Belle Bracy. Mother Bracy was a devoted prayer warrior and missionary who exemplified her calling with daily commitment. Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., officiated her home going before a large gathering of persons who cherished her work and memory. The Headquarters Jurisdiction of the Church Of God In Christ has been positively impacted by the continuous prayer and consecration that flowed from the life and function of Mother Bracy. For those with whom she labored in prayer and word, the testimonies were tremendous. Saturday, May 30, 2009, the city of Memphis, Tennessee paused to sing, pray and praise God for this wonderful and faithful saint.

Mother Bracy's roots go back to the ministry of Bishop Charles H. Mason, founder of the Church Of God In Christ. As a child her formative years were influenced by his ministry, songs and spirituality. She was a devotee of the saved, sanctified and holiness life style. As a young adult, Ida became a member at Pentecostal Temple and served in various capacities in the ministry of Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. Her membership was accented with service as a Sunday School teacher and

her abilities to explain Scripture and provide spiritual guidance made her class large. It was evident that she would be marked for service. Mother Bracy was the type of individual that every pastor wants in the ministry, a tireless and practical worker.

Mother Bracy had an excellent name for bringing seekers through with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Her house prayer was widely known and was attended by countless saints who in turn brought people seeking the baptism of the spirit. 1812 Westmore Cove was known for being the place where miracles, healing, restoration and salvation were wrought. Many local congregations in the city have persons who speak about being blessed through the Bracy prayer ministry. Mother Bracy's house prayer had a brand like Coke Cola, she was the real thing!

Mother Bracy was a loving wife and mother. Her commitment to education and strong family life only made her more effective. Her faith and love was a joy to both blood relatives and persons she met at the altar. She is now gone, but the memory of her service and legacy will continue in the countless lives of individuals she won for God. ☪



Mother Ida Belle Bracy

What the saints are saying about President Barack Obama

For some the historical milestone is personal; for others it's spiritual, political or social

By Liz A. Womack



While opinions abound on the topic of United States President Barack Obama, when the saints speak about politics, one has to stop and listen. They eagerly offer lively, insightful even dynamic perspectives on Mr. Obama's historic victory as the first known African American to attain the world's highest government position.

Amid the 101st Holy Convocation's bevy of prayer meetings, worship services, seminars and the General Assembly's vote for COGIC's international prelate position, a diverse segment of saints from around the country voiced their reactions to Mr. Obama as 44th president. Clearly their thoughts show the election and presidency has spiritual, personal, political and social relevance among saints.

Bishop Martin Luther Johnson, New Jersey First Jurisdiction – *"It's a significant turning point in America and in the world."*

Rev. Eugene Rivers, Keynote at the COGIC Charities Banquet – *"With the success of Barack Obama we have concisely concluded the confederacy."*

Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor of Women – *"I believe it (Obama's election) was God-ordained. We must pray for him to have God-given direction. It's not for us as African Americans to boast that we have a black president."*

Pastor Gerald Simmons, Lancaster, Pennsylvania – *"The greatest impact will be the international impact. People in Korea, Japan, Greece – all the world is making a wonderful response. Another impact is that our nation can restore its image as a just nation. The second impact is there will be an increase in patriotism among people of color. We've always been patriotic, but reluctant. Every time we try to give our contribution to the nation, they would accept it but not give us our full citizenship. Another significant impact of the election can be the healing of the ethnic divide in America. If White Americans will allow this brother (Obama), he will be the ambassador to the*

dominant culture for the people of color."

Evangelist Pearl Page Brown, San Jose, California – *"It is history. He has made history. God has raised him up and prepared him. The man is prepared – unknowingly prepared. That was God's doing."*

Minister Lorenzo Savage, Tampa, Florida – *"It was really great to see a black man obtain such a high position in the world. Now you can think that you can become president."*

Khadija Craine, Byhalia, Mississippi – *"Having an African American in office shows how far we have come from. It gives me someone to look up to."*

Dr. John Penton, COGIC Charities Executive Director – *"He (Obama) can make an impact on our youth and their ability to dream beyond entertainment and sports."*

Evangelist Barbara Goodson, Philadelphia, PA – *"I believe this is the season, not just for Black Americans but for every American. In every culture there has been a struggle. Not only is Barack Obama mixed (race), he represents color for all races. He is a man for a whole nation. His election is giving a lot of people confidence that 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' His election means that Barbara Goodson can still finish her college education at 45 years old with a bachelor's degree in human services."*

Sylvia Law, COGIC Charities Scholarship Coordinator and newly elected COGIC Board of Trustees member – *"I remember the 50s. I remember the time when I was put off the buses and put out of restaurants. I went to separate schools. We have to ensure that those things never again happen to anyone regardless of the color of their skin."*

Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, Wisconsin First Jurisdiction and newly elected General Board Member – *"It (election) demonstrates solidarity. It gives hope and inspiration to our youth."*

Pastor Ed Ollie, Des Moines, Iowa – *"The significant point is that he (Obama) is a man that will try to bring healing to our nation. It brings hope to many Black Americans. It will help me to be a better man, a better husband and father in watching him with his wife and daughters. Whatever I can ascribe to by God's grace, I can accomplish it through the prayers of God's people. It's a bright light to all of us who have lived in darkness. The pattern is laid for us . . . to carry ourselves in a manner of integrity. It's making me go back to my church and take three expensive ties and shirts to men in my church and teach them how to tie a tie and how to dress like men of integrity." ☺*

Liz A. Womack is Founder and President of LAW Inspiration Enterprises, producer of the 2009 Commemorative Calendar Celebrating the Historical Homegoing and Life Work of Bishop Ozro T. Jones, Jr. Visit www.lawinspirations.com.

Elder Claude Lang Dies

107 Year Journey Ends

East Chicago, Indiana- The homegoing celebration for the Elder Claude Lang was conducted at the Faith Temple COGIC, March 19, 2009. The life and times of Elder Lang were remembered by a packed house of loved ones and friends who cherished the ministry and contributions of the 107 year clergyman. *The Whole Truth Magazine* is proud to share the obituary of one who lived an epic life as pioneer and servant of God.

Elder Claude Lang was born March 6, 1902 to Fredrick and Annabelle Lang in Clark County, Mississippi, in the community of Langsdale. He is a descendent of Smiley and Lou Lang his grandparents, Colonel Clement Davenport Lang - better known as "Clem" his great-grandfather; and General William A. Lang his great-great grandfather, all sons of the South. His mother passed away while he and his brother and sister were very young. He was raised by his grandparents when his father moved to New Orleans to work.

In 1929, Elder Lang was saved and began evangelistic work under the stewardship of Mother Nancy Gamble, and ordained shortly thereafter, by Bishop William Roberts of Chicago, Illinois. Under the leadership of General Overseer and Chief Apostle, Bishop Charles H. Mason, he traveled as a chauffeur and member of the evangelism team headed by Mother Gamble. He was part of the marvelous work that pioneered the development of numerous Church Of God In Christ congregations in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Due to the discrimination and various difficulties of preaching in untested areas and the opposition to the Pentecostal message, the team spent many nights sleeping in jails and funeral parlors as safe havens.

Young Claude met and married Hazel Natalie Watson of Harvey, Illinois in 1932. Hazel was an accomplished church pianist and scribe. She became a vital part of his evangelistic endeavors and during those years of ministry and they became parents of six children. He was a loving husband and mate for sixty years of marriage. Hazel departed this life in 1992. Their record of ministry was typical of how the Church Of God In Christ grew so well. This husband and wife team served local churches in Aurora and Chicago, Illinois, and Elder Lang served as Superintendent of the North Shore District in Chicago, Illinois. The Faith Temple Church Of God In Christ was considered the family church and they worshiped there off and on for 65 years.

In better than 80 years of ministry, Elder Lang led countless souls to Christ. He was especially adept at hospital and home visita-

tions. He had a compassionate heart for those confined and out of touch with daily living. He never forgot a bed ridden friend. And this spirit led him to patiently work in the lives of alcoholics and drug addicts, as he would mentor young ministers in the gospel. His secular job was with Youngstown Sheet and Tube Steel Company, and he retired from there in 1969.

After losing his beloved Hazel, the Elder Lang married Missionary Sara Magee but she passed away in an untimely seven months. In 1996, He was blessed to marry Mrs. Ida Lacefield. They spent their days traveling and participating in family and church events. She preceded him in death also.



Elder Claude Lang

In 2000 at the age of 98, Elder Lang traveled with his family to Lang Plantation, in Langsdale, Mississippi. He was officially away from his birth place for 50 years but wanted to visit the grounds and again see and feel the land under his feet. As he stepped into the plantation mansion where his grandfather was born, he shared with his children an epic story of his journey through life. He enjoyed lemonade in the parlor while his wife Ida played the harpsichord. His early life was one of the African American overcoming the challenges of racism and bigotry. After they left Langsdale, the family traveled to Memphis, Tennessee. They were greeted by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson at the Temple of Deliverance. Next the family worshiped at historic Temple Church Of God In Christ, a congregation founded and served by Bishop Charles Mason, where Elder Lang's nephew, Dr. David Hall serves as pastor. Elder Lang was received by the congregation and preached an anointed message.

Throughout his 107 year life, Elder Lang demonstrated the phenomenal ability to embrace and adapt to the adversities and challenges of living. He did his best and shared his faith. He conducted his last revival at age 100. Until his dying day he possessed a sense of humor, mental sharpness and clarion wisdom. He was endowed with a special physical ability that was unusual and all who met him appreciated that fact. He was recipient of numerous civic and religious awards not only for his longevity but for his quality of contributions. Dr Charles Stanley, former Presidents, James Earl Carter and William J. Clinton honored him. The State of Indiana and the cities of East Chicago and Gary, Indiana classified him as an outstanding citizen. Elder Lang is particularly pleased that he had the privilege to cast his vote for Senator Barack Obama, who is our nation's first Black president. He was an apostle and legend of our time. ☪

A PRAYER BY
Bishop Charles Harrison Mason



*Jesus, everyday, the word of Him calling,
 the gift of God working, everywhere He's calling
 giving us to come and see the word
 of His wonders here with these.*

*Heal the sick ones and give these saying Yes, to God.
 I will Lord, I will Lord, I will glorify your name,
 I, will say I will.*

*The mind of God in Christ,
 the Word of God in Christ,
 the wisdom of God In Christ
 confirming His Word here.*

*Woman, Jesus deliver you, cast the devil out!
 Heal the sick everywhere.
 Heal here, heal everywhere.
 Heal! Heal today!*

*The Word of your wonder, heal!
 The Word of your will, heal!*

The gift of your name cast out devils.

*The everywhere of God!
 The wonder of Him here today.*

Jesus here and everywhere!

Meet the Newly Appointed Church Of God In Christ Publishing Board

Brother John Daniels, Esq. Publishing Board President



Left to Right: Uleses Henderson, Esq., Sharon Miller, Bookstore Manager; John Daniels, Esq., Bishop Ted Thomas, Bishop Charles Connor, Reggie Witherspoon, Ron Owens, Front Right: Winifred Morris and Sandra Smith Jones.

Not present: Diana Banks, Joe Chase, Jr., Welton Lawrence, Mack C. Mason, Oscar Meadows, Bishop Marvin C. Pryor, Stephen Savage, Eric Slack, Esq., Amos Smith, Esq., Lisa Townsel, and B.L. Cleveland.

Photo by David A. Hall, Sr., CEO-Publishing House

MILITARY AWARD CEREMONY BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



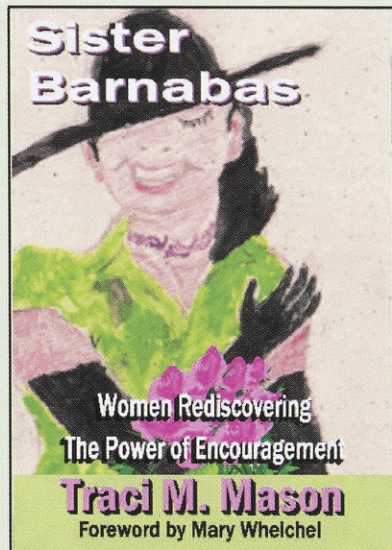
CHAPLAIN LARRY LEE SHAW U.S. ARMY (RES.)

BISHOP LARRY L. SHAW, PH.D.

RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS PRESIDENT'S
PURPLE HEART
BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT

THE COMBAT ACTIONS BADGE
& MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS

Announcing a . . . NEW BOOK RELEASE



Traci M. Mason

"Traci has written from her experience. This is truly her lifestyle. Sister Barnabas is both Biblical and practical. This is really good stuff!"
- from the foreword by Mary Whelchel

**GET YOUR
COPY TODAY!**

A word of encouragement can change your marriage. Encouragement can change your children. Encouragement can transform the atmosphere in the workplace, as well as in your church. The power of encouragement can change you too! This book will show you how.

Willie James Campbell, Evangelism Chairman



Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake appointed Willie James Campbell, President of the Evangelism Department. The International Evangelism Department is part of the AIMS Convention, and is responsible for developing the evangelistic department throughout the Church Of God In Christ. The President of the department has a mandate to organize local, national and international evangelists for an expanded ministry. His tenure in the mode of Presiding Bishop Blake will be one of innovation and technical development.

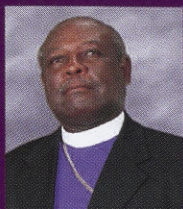
Elder Campbell is a veteran pastor and evangelist in the Church. He has preached in most cities in America, and before large conventions. He brings new energy, and innovative processes to the Evangelism Department. Along with him is International Elect Lady, Rita Womack, and Assistant International Chairlady, Elect Lady Dorinda Clark Cole. They make up a holy trinity of gifted speakers, tremendous singers, and persons with deep spiritual insight.

Pastor Campbell invites all interested parties who want to affiliate with the Evangelism Department to do so in the local jurisdictions. He is encouraging those with questions to write him at 640 West 118th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60628.



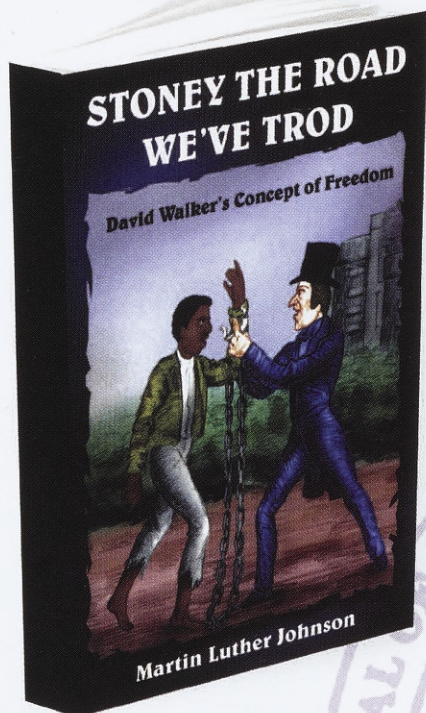
Church Of God In Christ

A Special Moment, Presiding Bishop Inaugurated



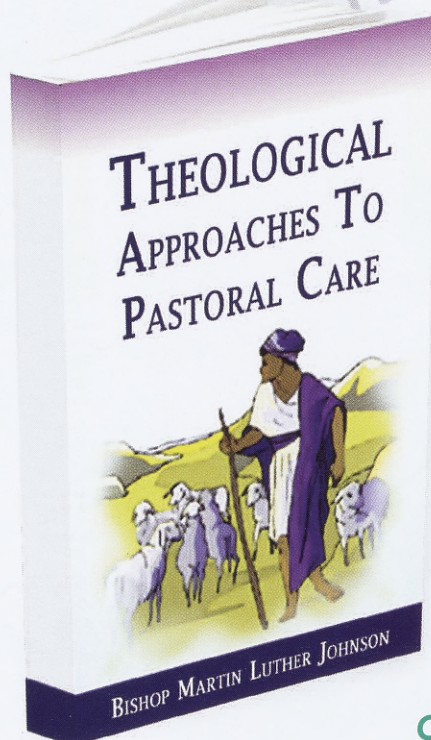
Two Powerful Books On Sale Now!

By Bishop Martin Luther Johnson



Stoney The Road We've Trod

Convinced that the final chapter about the life of David Walker had not been written, Dr. Johnson presents a constructive and provocative approach to the life and struggles of this man. His approach gets to the core of American racism and presents a challenge to future generations to pursue clarifications of, and answers to, the inconsistency between enslavement by white Americans and Christianity's message of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in this book is the urging to re-read Black history specifically, and American history in general, in an effort to arrive at a point of creative and positive dialogue. Because theological themes of racism, liberation, and social justice are pervading focusses of the work, one must get in touch with the Jesus of History in order to get a better grasp of the Christ of Faith. One must come to grips with who Jesus is and experience a deeper undergirding of the reality of Him in order to understand the meaning and purpose of total and complete liberation. Jesus Christ is tantamount to liberation and reconciliation of persons, but total reconciliation is predicated upon repentance of the persons, systems, and institutions responsible for the original alienation.



Theological Approaches To Pastoral Care

Confident that a key ingredient in the pastoral counseling and pastoral care profession is hearing what is said both verbally and non-verbally, Dr. Johnson presents an innovative and constructive approach to counseling. His is an approach that is provocative, insightful, and holds new challenges and support to caregivers. Pastoral care is a person-centered, holistic approach to care that complements the care offered by other helping disciplines, while paying particular attention to spiritual care. The focus of pastoral care is upon the healing, guiding, supporting, reconciling, nurturing, liberating, and empowering of people in whatever situation they find themselves.

Martin Luther Johnson is the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Church of God In Christ, New Jersey, and a retired Colonel from the United States Army. He is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University; The Interdenominational Theological Center; The University of Central Texas; New York University, where he completed the course work for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Religious Education (ABD); the United States Basic Course and the Advanced Course; the Command and General College; and The International Seminary (Ph.D.).

Order Online At barnesandnoble.com

Presenting
COGIC Commemorative
to Celebrate the History of the Church Of God In Christ



ACCEPTED WORLDWIDE!

NO CREDIT CHECK!

EASY TO LOAD!

Cards available at:

1-888-DEBIT01 / www.debit01.com

Purchase your keepsake card and begin using it today!

This card is issued by Metabank. In accordance with the USA Patriot Act, Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each individual applying for an account. When you apply, you will be asked to provide personal information including your name, address, date of birth, SSN and other information which will allow us to identify you. We will then verify this information with the appropriate sources before opening your account.